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**THE  
SECRET  
DOCTRINE**

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**VOL 2**

## THE WORKS OF H. P. BLAVATSKY

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ISIS UNVEILED

THE STANZAS OF DZIAN

THE VOICE OF THE SILENCE

THE KEY TO THEOSOPHY

THE THEOSOPHICAL GLOSSARY

PRACTICAL OCCULTISM AND OCCULTISM  
VERSUS THE OCCULT ARTS

NIGHTMARE TALES

A MODERN PANARION

CAVES AND JUNGLES OF HINDUSTAN

THE PEOPLE OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

# THE SECRET DOCTRINE

THE SYNTHESIS OF SCIENCE, RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

by

H. P. BLAVATSKY

Volume 2

COSMOGENESIS

PARTS 2 & 3



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VOLUME 2

COSMOGENESIS

PART 2

THE EVOLUTION OF SYMBOLISM



# THE EVOLUTION OF SYMBOLISM

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## SECTION 1

### SYMBOLISM AND IDEOGRAPHS

For is not a symbol ever, to him who has eyes for it, some dimmer or clearer revelation of the God-like? Through all there glimmers something of a Divine Idea. Nay the highest ensign that men ever met and embraced under, the Cross itself, had no meaning, save an accidental extrinsic one,

CARLYLE, *Sartor Resartus*.

THE study of the hidden meaning in every religious and profane legend, of whatsoever nation, large or small, and pre-eminently in the traditions of the East, has occupied the greater portion of the present writer's life. She is one of those who feel convinced that no mythological story, no traditional event in the folk-lore of a people, has ever, at any time, been pure fiction, but that every one of such narratives has an actual historical lining to it. In this the writer disagrees with those symbolologists, however great their reputation, who find in every myth nothing more than additional proof of the superstitious bent of mind of the Ancients, and who believe that all mythologies sprang from, and are built upon, *solar myths*. Such superficial thinkers have been admirably disposed of by Mr. Gerald Massey, the poet and Egyptologist, in a lecture on "Lunolatry, Ancient and Modern." His pointed criticism is worthy of reproduction in this part of our work, as it echoes so well our own feelings, expressed openly so far back as 1875, when *Isis Unveiled* was written.

For thirty years past Professor Max Müller has been teaching in his books and lectures, in the *Times*, *Saturday Review*, and various magazines, from the platform of the Royal Institution, the pulpit of Westminster Abbey and his chair at Oxford, that mythology is a disease of language, and that the ancient symbolism was a result of something like a primitive mental aberration.



"We know," says Renouf, echoing Max Muller, in his Hibbert lectures, "We know that mythology is the disease which springs up at a peculiar stage of human culture." Such is the shallow explanation of the non-evolutionists, and such explanations are still accepted by the British public, that gets its thinking done for it by proxy, Professor Max Muller, Cox, Gubernatis, and other propounders of the Solar Mythos, have portrayed the primitive myth-maker for us as a sort of Germanised-Hindu metaphysician, projecting his own shadow on a mental mist, and talking ingeniously concerning smoke, or, at least, *cloud*, the sky overhead becoming like the dome of dreamland, scribbled over with the imagery of aboriginal nightmares! They conceive the early man in their own likeness, and look upon him as perversely prone to self-mystification, or, as Fontenelle has it, "subject to beholding things that are not there!" They have misrepresented primitive or archaic man as having been idiotically misled from the first by an active but untutored imagination into believing all sorts of fallacies, which were directly and constantly contradicted by his own daily experience, a fool of fancy in the midst of those grim realities that were grinding his experiences into him, like the grinding icebergs making their imprints upon the rocks submerged beneath the sea. It remains to be said, and will one day be acknowledged, that these accepted teachers have been no nearer to the beginnings of mythology and language than Burns's poet Willie had been near to Pegasus. My reply is, 'Tis but a dream of the metaphysical theorist that mythology was a disease of language, or of anything else except his own brain. The origin and meaning of mythology have been missed altogether by these solarites and weather-mongers! Mythology was a primitive mode of *thinking* the early thought. It was founded on natural facts, and is still verifiable in phenomena. There is nothing insane, nothing irrational in it, when considered in the light of evolution, and when its mode of expression by sign-language is thoroughly understood. The insanity lies in mistaking it for human history or Divine Revelation! Mythology is the repository of man's most ancient science, and what concerns us chiefly is this—when truly interpreted once more, it is destined to be the death of those false theologies to which it has unwittingly given birth!<sup>1</sup>

In modern phraseology a statement is sometimes said to be mythical in proportion to its being untrue, but the ancient mythology was not a system or mode of falsifying in that sense. Its fables were the means of conveying facts, they were neither forgeries nor fictions. For example, when the Egyptians portrayed the moon as a cat, they were not ignorant enough to suppose that the moon was a cat, nor did their wandering fancies see any likeness in the moon to a cat, nor was a cat-myth any mere expansion of verbal metaphor, nor had they any intention of making puzzles or riddles. They had observed the simple fact that the cat saw in the dark, and that her eyes became full-orbed, and grew most luminous by night. The moon was the seer by night in heaven, and the cat was its equivalent on the earth, and so the familiar cat was adopted as a representative, a natural sign, a living pictograph of the lunar orb. And so it followed that the sun which saw down in the under-world at night could also be called the cat, as it was, because it also saw in the dark. The name of the cat in Egyptian is *mau*, which denotes the seer, from *mau*, to see. One writer on mythology asserts that the Egyptians "imagined a great cat behind the sun, which is the pupil of the cat's eye." But this imagining is all modern. It is the Mullerite stock in trade. The moon, as cat, was the eye of the sun, because it reflected

<sup>1</sup> As far as "Divine Revelation" is concerned, we agree. Not so with regard to "human history." For there is "history" in most of the allegories and "myths" of India, and events, real actual events, are concealed under them.

<sup>2</sup> When the "false theologies" disappear, then true prehistoric realities will be found, contained especially in the mythology of the Aryans and ancient Hindus, and even the pre-Homeric Hellenes.

the solar light, and because the eye gives back the image in its mirror. In the form of the goddess Pasht, the cat keeps watch for the sun, with her paw holding down and bruising the head of the serpent of darkness, called his eternal enemy !

This is a very correct exposition of the lunar mythos from its astronomical aspect. Selenography, however, is the least esoteric of the divisions of lunar Symbology. To master thoroughly—if one is permitted to coin a new word—Selenognosis, one must become proficient in more than its astronomical meaning. The Moon is intimately related to the Earth, as shown in STANZA 6, Volume 1, and is more directly concerned with all the mysteries of our Globe than is even Venus-Lucifer, the occult sister and *alter ego* of the Earth.<sup>1</sup>

The untiring researches of Western, especially German, symbolologists, during the last and the present centuries, have induced the most unprejudiced students, and of course every Occultist, to see that without the help of symbology—with its seven departments, of which the moderns know nothing—no ancient Scripture can ever be correctly understood. Symbology must be studied from every one of its aspects, for each nation had its own peculiar methods of expression. In short, no Egyptian papyrus, no Indian olla,<sup>2</sup> no Assyrian tile, no Hebrew scroll, should be read and interpreted *literally*.

This every scholar now knows. The able lectures of Mr. Gerald Massey alone are sufficient to convince any fair-minded Christian that to accept the dead-letter of the *Bible* is equivalent to falling into a grosser error and superstition than any hitherto evolved by the brain of the savage South Sea Islander. But the fact to which even the most truth-loving and truth-searching Orientalists—whether Âryanists or Egyptologists—seem to remain blind, is that every symbol on papyrus or olla is a many-faced diamond, each of whose facets not only includes several interpretations, but also relates to several sciences. This is instanced in the just quoted interpretation of the cat symbolizing the moon—an example of sidereo-terrestrial imagery, for the moon has with other nations many other meanings besides.

As a learned Mason and Theosophist, the late Kenneth Mackenzie, has shown in his *Royal Masonic Cyclopædia*, there is a great difference between *emblem* and *symbol*. The former “comprises a larger series of thoughts than a symbol, which may be said rather to illustrate some single special idea.” Hence, the symbols—lunar, or solar, for example—of several countries, each illustrating such a special idea, or series of ideas, form collectively an esoteric emblem. The latter is “a concrete visible picture or sign representing principles, or a series of principles, *recognizable by those who have received certain*

<sup>1</sup> See Section 9, The Moon, Deus Lunus, Phoebe

<sup>2</sup> Tamil *Ólar*—palm-leaf.

*instructions* [Initiates].” To put it still plainer, an emblem is usually a series of graphic pictures viewed and explained allegorically, and unfolding an idea in panoramic views, one after the other. Thus the *Purânas* are written emblems. So are the Mosaic and Christian *Testaments*, or the *Bible*, and all other exoteric Scriptures. As the same authority shows :

All esoteric societies have made use of emblems and symbols, such as the Pythagorean Society, the Eleusinia, the Hermetic Brethren of Egypt, the Rosicrucians, and the Freemasons. Many of these emblems it is not proper to divulge to the general eye, and a very minute difference may make the emblem or symbol differ widely in its meaning. The magical sigilla, being founded on certain principles of number, partake of this character, and although monstrous or ridiculous in the eyes of the uninstructed, convey a whole body of doctrine to those who have been trained to recognize them.

The above enumerated societies are all comparatively modern, none dating back earlier than the Middle Ages. How much more proper, then, that the students of the oldest Archaic School should be careful not to divulge secrets of far more importance to humanity (as being dangerous in ignorant hands) than any of the so-called “Masonic Secrets,” which have now become those of “Polichinelle,” as the French say! But this restriction can apply only to the psychological or rather psycho-physiological and cosmical significance of symbol and emblem, and even to that only partially. For though an Adept must refuse to impart the conditions and means that lead to any correlation of Elements—whether psychic or physical—which may produce harmful as well as beneficent results, yet he is ever ready to impart to the earnest student the secret of the ancient thought, in anything that has respect to history concealed under mythological symbolism, and thus to furnish a few more land-marks for a retrospective view of the past, in so far as it furnishes useful information with regard to the origin of man, the evolution of the Races and geognosy. And yet it is the crying complaint to-day, not only among Theosophists, but also among the few profane interested in the subject. Why do not the Adepts reveal that which they know? To this, one might answer: Why should they, since one knows beforehand that no man of Science will accept it, even as a hypothesis, much less as a theory or axiom. Have you so much as accepted or believed in the A B C of the Occult Philosophy contained in *The Theosophist*, *Esoteric Buddhism*, and other works and periodicals? Has not even the little which has been given been ridiculed and derided, and made to face the “animal-” and “ape-theory” of Huxley and Hæckel, on the one hand, and the rib of Adam and the apple on the other? Notwithstanding such an unenviable prospect, however, a mass of facts is given in the present work, and now the origin of man, the evolution of

the Globe and the Races, human and animal, are as fully treated as the writer is able to treat them.

The proofs brought forward in corroboration of the old teachings are scattered widely throughout the old scriptures of ancient civilizations. The *Purânas*, the *Zend Avesta*, and the old classics, are full of such facts ; but no one has ever taken the trouble of collecting and collating them together. The reason for this is that all such events were recorded symbolically, and that the best scholars, the most acute minds, among our Âryanists and Egyptologists, have been too often darkened by one or another preconception, and still oftener, by one-sided views of the secret meaning. Yet even a parable is a spoken symbol—a fiction or a fable, as some think ; an allegorical representation, we say, of life-realities, events, and facts. And just as a moral was ever drawn from a parable, such moral being an actual truth and fact in human life, so a historical, real event was deduced, by those versed in the hieratic sciences, from emblems and symbols recorded in the ancient archives of the temples. The religious and esoteric history of every nation was embedded in symbols, it was never expressed literally in so many words. All the thoughts and emotions, all the learning and knowledge, revealed and acquired, of the early Races, found their pictorial expression in allegory and parable. Why ? Because *the spoken word has a potency not only unknown to, but even unsuspected and naturally disbelieved in*, by the modern “sages” ; because sound and rhythm are closely related to the four Elements of the Ancients ; and because such or another vibration in the air is sure to awaken the corresponding Powers, union with which produces good or bad results, as the case may be. No student was ever allowed to recite historical, religious, or real events of any kind, in so many unmistakable words, lest the Powers connected with the event should be once more attracted. Such events were narrated only during Initiation, and every student had to record them in corresponding symbols, drawn out of his own mind and examined later by his Master, before they were finally accepted. Thus by degrees was the Chinese Alphabet created, as just before it the hieratic symbols were fixed upon in old Egypt. In the Chinese language, the characters of which may be read in any language,<sup>1</sup> and which, as just said, is only a little less ancient than the Egyptian alphabet of Thoth, every word has its corresponding symbol in a pictorial form. This language possesses many thousands of such symbol letters, or logograms, each conveying the meaning of a whole word ; for letters proper, or an alphabet as

<sup>1</sup> Thus a Japanese who does not understand one word of Chinese, meeting with a Chinaman who has never heard the language of the former, will communicate in writing with him, and they will understand each other perfectly—because their writing is symbolical.

we understand it, do not exist in the Chinese language, any more than they did in the Egyptian, till a far later Period

The explanation of the chief symbols and emblems is now attempted, as Volumes 3 and 4, which treat of Anthropogenesis, would be most difficult to understand without a preparatory acquaintance with at least the metaphysical symbols.

Nor would it be just to enter upon an esoteric reading of symbolism, without giving due honour to one who has rendered it the greatest service in this century, by discovering the chief key to ancient Hebrew symbology, strongly interwoven with metrology, one of the keys to the once universal Mystery Language. Mr. Ralston Skinner, of Cincinnati, the author of *The Key to the Hebrew-Egyptian Mystery in the Source of Measures*, has our thanks. A Mystic and a Kabalist by nature, he has laboured for many years in this direction, and his efforts have certainly been crowned with great success. In his own words :

The writer is quite certain that there was an ancient language which modernly and up to this time appears to have been lost, the vestiges of which, however, abundantly exist. . . . The author discovered that this geometrical ratio [the integral ratio of the diameter to the circumference of a circle] was the very ancient, and probably the divine origin of linear measures . It appears almost proven that the same system of geometry, numbers, ratio, and measures was known and made use of on the continent of North America, even prior to the knowledge of the same by the descending Semites

The peculiarity of this language was that it could be contained in another, concealed and not to be perceived, save through the help of special instruction, letters and syllabic signs possessing at the same time the powers or meanings of numbers, of geometrical shapes, pictures, or ideographs and symbols, the designed scope of which would be determinatively helped out by parables in the shape of narratives or parts of narratives, while also it could be set forth separately, independently, and variously, by pictures, in stone work, or in earth constructions.

To clear up an ambiguity as to the term language. Primarily the word means the expression of ideas by human speech, but, secondarily, it may mean the expression of ideas by any other instrumentality. This old language is so composed in the Hebrew text, that by the use of the written characters, which uttered shall be the language first-defined, a distinctly separated series of ideas may be intentionally communicated, other than those ideas expressed by the reading of the sound-signs. This secondary language sets forth, under a veil, series of ideas, copies in imagination of things sensible, which may be pictured, and of things which may be classed as real without being sensible, as for instance the number 9 may be taken as a reality, though it has no sensible existence, so, also, a revolution of the moon, as separate from the moon itself by which that revolution has been made, may be taken as giving rise to, or causing a real idea, though such a revolution has no substance. This idea language may consist of symbols restricted to arbitrary terms and signs, having a very limited range of conceptions, and quite valueless, or it may be a reading of nature in some of her manifestations of a value almost immeasurable, as regards

human civilization. A picture of something natural may give rise to ideas of co-ordinating subject-matter, radiating out in various and even opposing directions, like the spokes of a wheel, and producing natural realities in departments very foreign to the apparent tendency of the reading of the first or starting picture. Notion may give rise to connected notion, but if it does, then, however apparently incongruous, all resulting ideas must spring from the original picture and be harmonically connected, or related the one with the other. Thus with a pictured idea radical enough, the imagination of the cosmos itself, even in its details of construction, might result. Such a use of ordinary language is now obsolete, but it has become a question with the writer whether at one time far back in the past, it, or such, was not the language of the world and of universal use, possessed, however, as it became more and more moulded into its arcane forms, by a select class or caste. By this I mean that the popular tongue or vernacular commenced even in its origin to be made use of as the vehicle of this peculiar mode of conveying ideas. Of this the evidences are very strong, and indeed, it would seem that in the history of the human race there happened, from causes which at present at any rate we cannot trace, a lapse or loss from an original perfect language and a perfect system of science,—shall we say, perfect because they were of divine origin and importation?<sup>1</sup>

“Divine origin” does not here mean a revelation from an anthropomorphic God on a mount amidst thunder and lightning; but, as we understand it, a language and a system of science imparted to early mankind by a more advanced *mankind*, so much higher as to be *divine* in the sight of that infant humanity: by a “mankind,” in short, from other spheres; an idea which contains nothing supernatural in it, but the acceptance or rejection of which depends upon the degree of conceit and arrogance in the mind of him to whom it is stated. For, if the professors of modern knowledge would only confess that, though they know nothing of the future of the disembodied man—or rather will accept nothing—yet this future may be pregnant with surprises and unexpected revelations to them, once their Egos are rid of their gross bodies—then materialistic unbelief would have fewer chances than it has. Who of them knows, or can tell, what may happen when once the Life-Cycle of this Globe is run down, and our mother Earth herself falls into her last sleep? Who is bold enough to say that the *divine Egos* of our mankind—at least the elect out of the multitudes passing on to other spheres—*will not become in their turn* the “divine” instructors of a new mankind generated by them on a new Globe, called to life and activity by the disembodied “principles” of our Earth? All this may have been the experience of the PAST, and these strange records lie embedded in the “Mystery Language” of the pre-historic ages, the language now called SYMBOLISM.

<sup>1</sup> From an MS., pp 1-6. See footnote, Vol. 1, p 72

## SECTION 2

### THE MYSTERY LANGUAGE AND ITS KEYS

RECENT discoveries made by great mathematicians and Kabalists thus prove, beyond a shadow of doubt, that every theology, from the earliest down to the latest, has sprung, not only from a common source of abstract beliefs, but from one universal Esoteric, or "Mystery," Language. These scholars hold the key to the universal language of old, and have turned it successfully, though only once, in the hermetically closed door leading to the Hall of Mysteries. The great archaic system known from prehistoric ages as the sacred Wisdom-Science, one that is contained and can be traced in every old as well as in every new religion, had, and still has, its universal language—suspected by the Mason Ragon—the language of the Hierophants, which has seven "dialects," so to speak, each referring, and being specially appropriate, to one of the seven mysteries of Nature. Each had its own symbolism. Nature could thus be either read in its fullness, or viewed from one of its special aspects.

The proof of this lies, to this day, in the extreme difficulty which the Orientalists in general, and the Indianists and Egyptologists in particular, experience in interpreting the allegorical writings of the Âryans and the hieratic records of old Egypt. This is because they will never remember that all the ancient records were written in a language which was universal and known to all nations alike in days of old, but which is now intelligible only to the few. Like the Arabic figures which are understandable to men of every nation, or like the English word *and*, which becomes *et* for the Frenchman, *und* for the German, and so on, yet which may be expressed for all civilized nations in the simple sign &—so all the words of that Mystery Language signified the same thing to each man, of whatever nationality. There have been several men of note who have tried to re-establish such a universal and *philosophical* tongue—Delgarme, Wilkins, Leibnitz; but Demaimieux, in his *Pasigraphie*, is

the only one who has proven its possibility. The scheme of Valentinius, called the "Greek Kabalah," based on the combination of Greek letters, might serve as a model.

The many-sided facets of the Mystery Language have led to the adoption of widely varied dogmas and rites in the exotericism of the Church rituals. It is these, again, which are at the origin of most of the dogmas of the Christian Church, for instance, the seven Sacraments, the Trinity, the Resurrection, the seven Capital Sins and the seven Virtues. The Seven Keys to the Mystery Tongue, however, having always been in the keeping of the highest among the initiated Hierophants of antiquity, it is only the partial use of a few out of the seven which passed, through the treason of some early Church Fathers—ex-Initiates of the Temples—into the hands of the new sect of the Nazarenes. Some of the early Popes were Initiates, but the last fragments of their knowledge have now fallen into the power of the Jesuits, who have turned them into a system of sorcery.

It is maintained that INDIA—not in its present limits, but including its ancient boundaries—is the only country in the world which still has among her sons Adepts, who have the knowledge of all the seven sub-systems and the key to the entire system. From the fall of Memphis, Egypt began to lose these keys one by one, and Chaldea had preserved only three in the days of Berosus. As for the Hebrews, in all their writings they show no more than a thorough knowledge of the astronomical, geometrical and numerical systems of symbolizing the human, and especially the physiological functions. They never had the higher keys.

M. Gaston Maspero, the great French Egyptologist and the successor of Mariette Bey, writes :

Every time I hear people talking of the religion of Egypt, I am tempted to ask *which* of the Egyptian religions they are talking about? Is it of the Egyptian religion of the fourth dynasty, or of the Egyptian religion of the Ptolemaic period? Is it of the religion of the rabble, or of that of the learned? Of the religion such as was taught in the schools of Heliopolis, or of that which was in the minds and conceptions of the Theban sacerdotal class? For, between the first Memphite tomb, which bears the *cartouche* of a king of the third dynasty, and the last stones engraved at Esneh under Cæsar Philippus, the Arabian, there is an interval of at least five thousand years. Leaving aside the invasion of the Shepherds, the Ethiopian and Assyrian dominions, the Persian conquest, Greek colonization, and the thousand revolutions of its political life, Egypt had passed during those five thousand years through many vicissitudes of life, moral and intellectual. Chapter XVII of the *Book of the Dead*, which seems to contain the exposition of the system of the world, as it was understood at Heliopolis during the time of the first dynasties, is known to us by a few copies of the eleventh and twelfth dynasties. Every one of the verses composing it was already interpreted in three or four different ways, so different, indeed, that according to this or another school, the



Demiurge became either the solar fire—Ra-shoo, or the primordial water. Fifteen centuries later, the number of readings had increased considerably. Time, in its course, had modified their ideas about the universe and the forces that ruled it. In the short eighteen centuries that Christianity has existed, it has worked up, developed and transformed most of its dogmas, how many times, then, might not the Egyptian priesthood have altered their dogmas during those fifty centuries that separate Theodosius from the King Builders of the Pyramids<sup>1</sup>

Here we believe the eminent Egyptologist is going too far. The exoteric dogmas may often have been altered, the esoteric never. He does not take into account the sacred immutability of the primitive truths, revealed only during the mysteries of Initiation. The Egyptian priests *had forgotten much, they altered nothing*. The loss of a great part of the primitive teaching was due to the sudden deaths of the great Hierophants, who passed away before they had time to reveal *all* to their successors, mostly in the absence of worthy heirs to the knowledge. Yet they have preserved in their rituals and dogmas the principal teachings of the SECRET DOCTRINE.

Thus, in the Chapter of the *Book of the Dead*, mentioned by Maspero, we find (1) Osiris saying he is Toom—the creative force in Nature, giving form to all beings, spirits and men, self-generated and self-existent—issued from Noon, the celestial river, called *Father-Mother* of the Gods, the primordial deity, which is Chaos or the *Deep*, impregnated by the unseen Spirit. (2) He has found Shu, the solar force, on the Stairway in the City of the Eight (the two squares of Good and Evil), and he has annihilated the Children of Rebellion, the evil principles in Noon (Chaos). (3) He is the Fire and Water, i.e., Noon the Primordial Parent, and he created the Gods out of his Limbs—fourteen Gods (twice seven), seven dark and seven light Gods—the seven Spirits of the Presence of the Christians, and the seven dark Evil Spirits. (4) He is the Law of Existence and Being, the Bennoo, or Phœnix, the Bird of Resurrection in Eternity, in whom Night follows the Day, and Day the Night—an allusion to the periodical cycles of cosmic resurrection and human reincarnation. For what else can this mean? “The Wayfarer who crosses millions of years is the name of one, and the Great Green [Primordial Water or Chaos] the name of the other,” one begetting millions of years in succession, the other engulfing them, to restore them back. (5) He speaks of the Seven Luminous Ones who follow their Lord, Osiris, who confers justice, in Amenti.

All this is now shown to have been the source and origin of Christian dogmas. That which the Jews had from Egypt, through Moses and other Initiates, was confused and distorted enough in later days, but that which the Church got from both, is still more misinterpreted.

<sup>1</sup> *Guide au Musée de Boulaq*, pp. 148-9

Yet the system of the former, in this special department of symbology—the key, namely, to the mysteries of astronomy as connected with those of generation and conception—is now proven identical with those ideas in ancient religions which have developed the phallic element of theology. The Jewish system of sacred measures, applied to religious symbols, is the same, so far as geometrical and numerical combinations go, as those of Greece, Chaldea and Egypt, for it was adopted by the Israelites during the centuries of their slavery and captivity among the two latter nations<sup>1</sup> What was this system? It is the intimate conviction of the author of *The Source of Measures* that: “the Mosaic Books were intended, by a mode of art-speech, to set forth a geometrical and numerical system of exact science, which should serve as an origin of measures.” Piazz Smyth believes similarly. This system and these measures are found by some scholars to be identical with those used in the construction of the Great Pyramid. but this is only partially so. “The foundation of these measures was the Parker ratio,” says Ralston Skinner, in *The Source of Measures*.

The author of this very extraordinary work has discovered it, he says, in the use of the integral ratio of the diameter to the circumference of a circle, discovered by John A. Parker, of New York. This ratio is 6561 for diameter, and 20612 for circumference. Furthermore, that this geometrical ratio was the very ancient and probably the divine origin of what have now become, through exoteric handling and practical application, the British linear measures, “the underlying unit of which, viz., the *inch*, was likewise the base of one of the royal Egyptian *cubits*, and of the Roman *foot*.”

He also discovered that there was a modified form of the ratio, viz., 113 to 355, and that while this last ratio pointed through its origin to the exact integral *pi*, or to 6561 to 20612, it also served as a base for astronomical calculations. The author discovered that a system of exact science, geometrical, numerical, and astronomical, founded on these ratios, and to be seen in use in the construction of the Great Egyptian Pyramid, was in part the burden of this *language*, as contained in, and concealed under, the verbiage of the Hebrew text of the Bible. The *inch* and the two-foot rule of 24 inches, interpreted for use through the elements of the circle and the ratios mentioned, were found to be at the basis or foundation of this natural, and Egyptian, and

<sup>1</sup> As we said in *Isis Unveiled*, II, 438-9 “To the present moment, in spite of all controversies and researches, History and Science remain as much as ever in the dark as to the origin of the Jews. They may as well be the exiled Chandālas of old India, the ‘bricklayers’ mentioned by Veda-Vyāsa and Manu, as the Phœnicians of Herodotus, or the Hyksos of Josephus, or the descendants of Pali shepherds, or a mixture of all these. The Bible names the Tyrians as a kindred people and claims dominion over them. Yet whatever they may have been, they became a hybrid people, not long after the time of Moses, for the Bible shows them freely intermarrying not alone with the Canaanites, but with every other nation or race they came in contact with.”

Hebrew system of science ; while, moreover, it seems evident enough that the system itself was looked upon as of divine origin, and of divine revelation.<sup>1</sup>

But let us see what is said by the opponents of Prof. Piazzzi Smyth's measurements of the Pyramid.

Mr. Petrie seems to deny them, and to have made short work altogether of Piazzzi Smyth's calculations in their Biblical connection. So does Mr. Proctor, the champion "Coincidentalist" for many years past in every question of ancient arts and sciences. Speaking of "the multitude of relations independent of the Pyramid, which have turned up while the Pyramidalists have been endeavouring to connect the Pyramid with the solar system," he says :

These coincidences [which "would still remain if the Pyramid had no existence,"] are altogether more curious than any coincidence between the Pyramid and astronomical numbers the former are as close and remarkable as they are real, the latter, which are only *imaginary* (?), have only been established by the process which schoolboys call "fudging," and now new measures have left the work to be done all over again<sup>2</sup>

On this Mr C. Staniland Wake justly observes :

They must, however, have been more than mere coincidences, if the builders of the pyramid had the astronomical knowledge displayed in its perfect orientation and in its other admitted astronomical features<sup>3</sup>

They had it assuredly ; and it is on this "knowledge" that the programme of the MYSTERIES and of the series of Initiations was based . hence, the construction of the Pyramid, the everlasting record and the indestructible symbol of these Mysteries and Initiations on Earth, as the courses of the stars are in Heaven The cycle of Initiation was a reproduction in miniature of that great series of cosmic changes to which astronomers have given the name of the Tropical or Sidereal Year. Just as, at the close of the cycle of the Sidereal Year (25,868 years), the heavenly bodies return to the same relative positions as they occupied at its outset, so at the close of the cycle of Initiation the Inner Man has regained the pristine state of divine purity and knowledge from which he set out on his cycle of terrestrial incarnation.

Moses, an Initiate into the Egyptian Mystagogy, based the religious mysteries of the new nation which he created upon the same abstract formulæ derived from this Sidereal Cycle, symbolized by the form and measurements of the Tabernacle, which he is supposed to have constructed in the Wilderness. On these data, the later Jewish High Priests constructed the allegory of Solomon's Temple—a building which never had a real existence, any more than had King Solomon himself, who is as much a solar myth as is the still later

<sup>1</sup> See MS , p. 20

<sup>2</sup> Knowledge, Vol I , see also Petrie's letter to *The Academy*, Dec 17, 1881

<sup>3</sup> *The Origin and Significance of the Great Pyramid*, p. 8, footnote 1882

Hiram Abif of the Masons, as Ragon has well demonstrated. Thus, if the measurements of this allegorical Temple, the symbol of the cycle of Initiation, coincide with those of the Great Pyramid, it is due to the fact that the former were derived from the latter through the Tabernacle of Moses.

That our author<sup>1</sup> has undeniably discovered one and even two of the keys, is fully demonstrated in the work just quoted. One has only to read it, to feel a growing conviction that the hidden meaning of the allegories and parables of both *Testaments* is now unveiled. But that he owes this discovery far more to his own genius than to Parker and Piazzi Smyth, is also as certain, if not more so. For, as just shown, it is not so certain whether the measures of the Great Pyramid adopted by the Biblical Pyramidalists are beyond suspicion. A proof of this is to be found in the work called *The Pyramids and Temples of Gizeh*, by Mr. F. Petrie, and also in other works written quite recently to oppose the said calculations, which their authors call "biased." We gather that nearly every one of Piazzi Smyth's measurements differs from the later and more carefully made measurements of Mr. Petrie, who concludes the Introduction to his work with this sentence .

As to the results of the whole investigation, perhaps many theorists will agree with an American who was a warm believer in Pyramid theories when he came to Gizeh. I had the pleasure of his company there for a couple of days, and at our last meal together he said to me in a saddened way "Well, sir! I feel as if I had been to a funeral. By all means let the old theories have a decent burial, though we should take care that in our haste none of the wounded ones are buried alive."

As regards J. A. Parker's calculation in general, and his third proposition especially, we have consulted some eminent mathematicians, and this is the substance of what they say :

Parker's reasoning rests on sentimental, rather than on mathematical, considerations, and is logically inconclusive.

Proposition III, namely, that :

The circle is the natural basis or beginning of all area, and the square being made so in mathematical science, is artificial and arbitrary

—is an illustration of an arbitrary proposition, and cannot safely be relied upon in mathematical reasoning. The same observation applies, even more strongly, to Proposition VII, which states that :

Because the circle is the primary shape in nature, and hence the basis of area, and because the circle is measured by, and is equal to the square only in ratio of half its circumference by the radius, therefore, circumference and radius, and not the square of diameter, are the only natural and legitimate elements of area, by which all regular shapes are made equal to the square, and equal to the circle

<sup>1</sup> Refers apparently to C. Staniland Wake's book, just mentioned,

Proposition IX is a remarkable example of faulty reasoning, though it is the one on which Mr. Parker's *Quadrature*<sup>1</sup> mainly rests. It states that :

The circle and the equilateral triangle are opposite to one another in all the elements of their construction, and hence the fractional diameter of one circle, which is equal to the diameter of one square, is in the opposite duplicate ratio to the diameter of an equilateral triangle whose area is one, etc , etc

Granting, for the sake of argument, that a triangle can be said to have a radius, in the sense in which we speak of the radius of a circle—for what Parker calls the radius of the triangle, is the radius of a circle inscribed in a triangle, and therefore not the radius of the triangle at all—and granting for the moment the other fanciful and mathematical propositions united in his premisses, why must we conclude that, if the equilateral triangle and circle are opposite in all the elements of their construction, the diameter of any defined circle is in the opposite duplicate ratio of the diameter of any given equivalent triangle? What necessary connection is there between the premisses and the conclusion? The reasoning is of a kind not known in geometry, and would not be accepted by strict mathematicians.

Whether the archaic Esoteric system originated the British inch or not is of little consequence, however, to the strict and true metaphysician. Nor does Mr. Ralston Skinner's esoteric reading of the *Bible* become incorrect, merely because the measurements of the Pyramid may not be found to agree with those of Solomon's Temple, the Ark of Noah, etc., or because Mr. Parker's *Quadrature of the Circle* is rejected by mathematicians. For Mr. Skinner's reading depends primarily on the Kabalistic methods and the Rabbinical value of the Hebrew letters. But it is extremely important to ascertain whether the measures used in the evolution of the symbolic religion of the Âryans, in the construction of their temples, in the figures given in the *Purânas*, and especially in their chronology, their astronomical symbols, the duration of the cycles, and other computations, were, or were not, the same as those used in the Biblical measurements and glyphs. For this will prove that the Jews, unless they took their sacred cubit and measurements from the Egyptians—Moses being an Initiate of their Priests—must have got those notions from India. At any rate they passed them on to the early Christians. Hence, it is the Occultists and Kabalists who are the true heirs to the Knowledge, or the Secret Wisdom, which is still found in the *Bible*, for they alone now understand its real meaning, whereas profane Jews and Christians cling to the husks and dead letter thereof. That it was this system of measures which led to the invention of the God-names Elohim and Jehovah, and to their adaptation to Phallicism, and that Jehovah is a not very flattering copy

<sup>1</sup> *Quadrature of the Circle*, by John A. Parker, pp 117-9 1851.

of Osiris, is now demonstrated by the author of the *Source of Measures*. But the latter and Mr. Piazza Smyth both seem to labour under the impression that (a) the Priority of the system belongs to the Israelites, the Hebrew language being the *divine* language, and that (b) this universal language belongs to direct revelation<sup>1</sup>

The latter hypothesis is correct only in the sense shown in the last paragraph of the preceding Section; but we have yet to agree as to the nature and character of the divine "Revealer". The former hypothesis as to priority will for the profane, of course, depend on (a) the internal and external evidence of the revelation, and (b) on each scholar's individual preconceptions. This, however, cannot prevent either the Theistic Kabbalist, or the Pantheistic Occultist, from believing each in his way; neither of the two convincing the other. The data furnished by history are too meagre and unsatisfactory for either of them to prove to the sceptic which of them is right.

On the other hand, the proofs afforded by tradition are too constantly rejected for us to hope to settle the question in our present age. Meanwhile, Materialistic Science will be laughing at both Kabbalists and Occultists indifferently. But the vexed question of priority once laid aside, Science, in its departments of Philology and Comparative Religion, will find itself finally taken to task, and be compelled to admit the common claim.

[One by one the claims become admitted, as one Scientist after another is compelled to recognize the facts given out from the SECRET DOCTRINE, though he rarely, if ever, recognizes that he has been anticipated in his statements. Thus, in the palmy days of Mr. Piazza Smyth's authority on the Pyramid of Gizeh, his theory was, that the porphyry sarcophagus of the King's Chamber was "the unit of measure for the two most enlightened nations of the earth, England and America," and was no better than a "corn-bin." This was vehemently denied by us in *Isis Unveiled*, which had just been published at that time. Then the New York press arose in arms (the *New York Sun* and the *World* newspapers chiefly) against our presuming to correct or find fault with such a star of learning. In that work, we had said, that Herodotus, when treating of that Pyramid.

might have added that, externally it symbolized the creative principle of Nature, and illustrated also the principles of geometry, mathematics, astrology, and astronomy. Internally, it was a majestic fane, in whose sombre recesses were performed the Mysteries, and whose walls had often witnessed the initiation-scenes of members of the royal family. The porphyry sarcophagus, which Professor Piazza Smyth, Astronomer Royal of Scotland, degrades into a corn-bin, was the baptismal font, upon emerging from which the neophyte was "born again" and became an adept.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Op cit, I, p 519

Our statement was laughed at in those days. We were accused of having got our ideas from the "craze" of Shaw, an English writer who had maintained that the sarcophagus had been used for the celebration of the Mysteries of Osiris, although we had never heard of that writer. And now, six or seven years later (1882), this is what Mr Staniland Wake writes :

The so-called King's Chamber, of which an enthusiastic pyramidist says, "The polished walls, fine materials, grand proportions, and exalted place eloquently tell of glories yet to come," if not "the chamber of perfections" of Cheops' tomb, was probably the place to which the initiate was admitted after he had passed through the narrow upward passage and the grand gallery, with its lowly termination, which gradually prepared him for the final stage of the sacred mysteries<sup>1</sup>

Had Mr. Staniland Wake been a Theosophist, he might have added that the narrow upward passage leading to the King's Chamber had a "narrow gate" indeed; the same "strait gate" which "leadeth unto life," or the new spiritual re-birth alluded to by Jesus in Matthew,<sup>2</sup> and that it was of this gate in the Initiation Temple, that the writer, who recorded the words alleged to have been spoken by an Initiate, was thinking.]

Thus the greatest scholars of Science, instead of pooh-poohing that supposed "farrago of absurd fiction and superstitions," as the Brāhmanical literature is generally termed, will endeavour to learn the symbolical universal language, with its numerical and geometrical keys. But here, again, they will hardly be successful, if they share the belief that the Jewish Kabalistic system contains the key to the *whole* mystery, for *it does not*. Nor does any other Scripture at present possess it in its entirety, since even the Vedas are not complete. Every old religion is but a chapter or two of the entire volume of archaic primeval mysteries, Eastern Occultism alone being able to boast that it is in possession of the full secret, with its seven keys. Comparisons will be instituted, and as much as possible will be explained in this work, the rest is left to the student's personal intuition. In saying that *Eastern Occultism has the secret*, it is not as if a "complete" or even an approximate knowledge was claimed by the writer, which would be absurd. What I know, I give out, that which I cannot explain, the student must find out for himself.

But though we may suppose that the entire cycle of the universal Mystery Language will not be mastered for centuries to come, yet even the little which has hitherto been discovered in the *Bible* by some scholars, is quite sufficient to demonstrate the claim—mathematically. As Judaism availed itself of two keys out of the seven, and as these two keys have now

<sup>1</sup> *The Origin and Significance of the Great Pyramid*, p. 93. 1882

<sup>2</sup> Ch. vii., 14

been re-discovered, it becomes no longer a matter of individual speculation and hypothesis, least of all of "concidence," but one of a correct reading of the Biblical texts, just as anyone acquainted with arithmetic reads and verifies an addition sum. [In fact, all we have said in *Isis Unveiled* is now found corroborated in the *Egyptian Mystery, or The Source of Measures*, by such readings of the *Bible* with the numerical and geometrical keys]

A few years longer, and this system will kill the dead-letter reading of the *Bible*, as it will that of all the other exoteric faiths, by showing the dogmas in their real, naked meaning. And then this undeniable meaning, however incomplete, will unveil the mystery of Being, and will, moreover, entirely change the modern scientific system of Anthropology, Ethnology and especially that of Chronology. The element of Phallicism, found in every God-name and narrative in the *Old*, and to some degree in the *New Testament*, may also in time considerably change modern materialistic views on Biology and Physiology.

Divested of their modern repulsive crudeness, such views of Nature and man will, on the authority of the celestial bodies and their mysteries, unveil the evolutions of the human mind and show how natural was such a course of thought. The so-called phallic symbols have become offensive only because of the element of materiality and animality in them. In the beginning, such symbols were but natural, as they originated with the archaic races, which, issuing to their personal knowledge from an androgyne ancestry, were the first phenomenal manifestations in their own sight of the separation of the sexes and the ensuing mystery of creating in their turn. If later races, especially the "chosen people," have degraded them, this does not affect the origin of the symbols. This little Semitic tribe—one of the smallest branchlets from the commingling of the fourth and fifth sub-races, the Mongolo-Turanian and the so-called Indo-European, after the sinking of the great Continent—could only accept its symbology in the spirit which was given to it by the nations from which it was derived. And, perchance, in the Mosaic beginnings, the symbology was not so crude as it became later under the handling of Ezra, who remodelled the whole *Pentateuch*. To take an instance, the glyph of Pharaoh's daughter (the woman), the Nile (the Great Deep and Water), and the baby-boy found floating therein in the ark of rushes, was not primarily composed for, or by, Moses. It was anticipated in the fragments found on the Babylonian tiles, in the story of King Sargon, who lived far earlier than Moses.

[In his *Assyrian Antiquities*,<sup>1</sup> Mr George Smith says: "In the palace of Sennacherib at Kouyunjik, I found another fragment of the curious history of



Sargon . . . published in my translation in the *Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archæology*.”<sup>1</sup> The capital of Sargon the Babylonian Moses, “ was the great city of Agadi, called by the Semites Akkad—mentioned in *Genesis* <sup>2</sup> as the capital of Nimrod. . . Akkad lay near the City of Sippara on the Euphrates and North of Babylon.”<sup>3</sup> Another strange “ coincidence ” is found in the fact that the name of the neighbouring City of Sippara is the same as the name of the wife of Moses—Zipporah.<sup>4</sup> Of course the story is a clever addition by Ezra, who could not have been ignorant of the original. This curious story is found on fragments of tablets from Kouyunjik, and reads as follows:

- 1 Sargina, the powerful king, the king of Akkad am I
- 2 My mother was a princess, my father I did not know , a brother of my father ruled over the country
- 3 In the city of Azupiranu, which by the side of the river Euphrates is situated,
- 4 My mother, the princess, conceived me , in difficulty she brought me forth ,
- 5 She placed me in an ark of rushes, with bitumen my exit she sealed up ,
- 6 She launched me in the river, which did not drown me
- 7 The river carried me, to Akki, the water-carrier, it brought me
- 8 Akki, the water-carrier, in tenderness of bowels, lifted me ’

And now let us compare the *Bible* narrative in *Exodus* :

And when she [Moses’ mother] could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein , and she laid it in the flags by the river’s brink “

Mr G. Smith then continues.

The story is supposed to have happened about 1600 B C , rather earlier than the supposed age of Moses , and, as we know that the fame of Sargon reached Egypt, it is quite likely that this account had a connection with the events related in *Exodus* II, for every action, when once performed, has a tendency to be repeated.

But now that Professor Sayce has had the courage to push back the dates of the Chaldean and Assyrian Kings by two thousand years more, Sargon must have preceded Moses by 2,000 years at the least. The confession is suggestive, but the figures lack a cypher or two.]

Now, what is the logical inference ? Most assuredly, that which gives us the right to say that the story told of Moses by Ezra had been learned by him while at Babylon, and that he applied the allegory told of Sargon to the Jewish lawgiver. In short, that *Exodus* was never written by Moses, but was re-fabricated from old materials by Ezra.

And if so, then why should not other symbols and glyphs far more crude in their phallic element have been added by this adept in the later Chaldean

<sup>1</sup> Vol I, Part I, 46

<sup>2</sup> Ch x, 10

<sup>3</sup> See *Isis Unveiled*, II, 442-3

<sup>4</sup> *Exodus*, II, 21.

<sup>5</sup> George Smith, *Chaldean Account of Genesis*, pp 299, 300

<sup>6</sup> Ch II, 3.

and Sabæan phallic worship? We are taught that the primeval faith of the Israelites was quite different from that which was developed centuries later by the Talmudists, and before them by David and Hezekiah.

All this, notwithstanding the exoteric element, as now found in the two Testaments, is quite sufficient to class the *Bible* among esoteric works, and to connect its secret system with Indian, Chaldean, and Egyptian symbolism. The whole cycle of Biblical glyphs and numbers, as suggested by astronomical observations—Astronomy and Theology being closely connected—is found in Indian exoteric, as well as esoteric, systems. These figures and their symbols, the signs of the Zodiac, the planets, their aspects and nodes—the last term having now passed even into our modern Botany—are known in Astronomy as Sextiles, Quartiles and so on, and have been used for ages and æons by the archaic nations, and in one sense have the same meaning as the Hebrew numerals. The earliest forms of elementary geometry must have certainly been suggested by the observation of the heavenly bodies and their groupings. Hence, the most archaic symbols in Eastern Esotericism are a circle, a point, a triangle, a square, a pentagon, and a hexagon, and other plane figures with various sides and angles. This shows the knowledge and use of geometrical symbology to be as old as the world.

Starting from this, it becomes easy to understand how Nature herself, even without the help of their divine instructors, could have taught primeval mankind the first principles of a numerical and geometrical symbol-language.<sup>1</sup> Hence we find numbers and figures used as an expression and a record of thought in every archaic symbolical Scripture. They are ever the same, with certain variations only, arising from the first figures. Thus the evolution and correlation of the mysteries of Kosmos, of its growth and development—spiritual and physical, abstract and concrete—were first recorded in geometrical changes of shape. Every Cosmogony began with a circle, a point, a triangle and a square,<sup>2</sup> up to number 9, when it was synthesized by the first line and a circle—the Pythagorean mystic Decad, the sum of all, involving and expressing the mysteries of the entire Kosmos; mysteries recorded a hundred times more fully in the Hindu system than elsewhere, for him who can understand its mystic language. The numbers 3 and 4, in their combination 7, and also 5, 6, 9, and 10, are the very corner-stones of Occult Cosmogonies. This Decad and its thousand combinations are found in every portion

<sup>1</sup> As a reminder how the esoteric religion of Moses was crushed several times, and the worship of Jehovah, as re-established by David, put in its place, by Hezekiah for instance, compare *Isis Unveiled*, II, 436-42. Surely there must have been some very good reasons why the Sadducees, who furnished almost all the High Priests of Judæa, held to the Laws of Moses and spurned the alleged "Books of Moses," the *Pentateuch* of the Synagogue and the *Talmud*.

<sup>2</sup> Cube, in the 1888 edition

of the globe. One recognizes it in the caves and rock-cut temples of Hindustân and Central Asia; in the Pyramids and Lithoi of Egypt and America; in the Catacombs of Ozimandyas, in the mounds of the snow-capped Caucasian fastnesses; in the ruins of Palenque, in Easter Island; everywhere whither the foot of ancient man has ever journeyed. The 3 and the 4, the triangle and the square, or the universal male and female glyphs, showing the first aspect of the evolving deity, are stamped for ever in the Southern Cross in the Heavens, as in the Egyptian Crux Ansata. As well expressed by the author of *The Source of Measures*.

The Cube unfolded is in display a cross of the Tau, or Egyptian form, or of the Christian cross-form. . . . A circle attached to the first, gives the Ansated Cross . . . numbers 3 and 4, counted on the cross, showing a form of the [Hebrew] golden candlestick [in the Holy of Holies], and of the  $3+4=7$ , and  $6+1=7$ , days in the circle of the week, as 7 lights of the sun. So also as the week of 7 lights gave origin to the month and year, so it is the time-marker of birth. . . . The cross-form being shown, then, by the connected use of the form 113 355, the symbol is completed by the attachment of a man to the cross<sup>1</sup>. This kind of measure was made to co-ordinate with the idea of the origin of human life, and hence the phallic form<sup>2</sup>.

The STANZAS show the cross and these numbers playing a prominent part in archaic Cosmogony. Meanwhile we may profit by the evidence collected by the same author, in the section which he rightly calls the "Primordial Vestiges of these Symbols," to show the identity of symbols and their esoteric meaning all over the globe.

Under the general view taken of the nature of the number-forms it becomes a matter of research of the utmost interest as to when and where their existence and their use first became known. Has it been a matter of revelation in what we know as the historic age—a cycle exceedingly modern when the age of the human race is contemplated? It seems, in fact, as to the date of its possession by man, to have been farther removed, in the past, from the old Egyptians than are the old Egyptians from us.

The Easter Isles in "mid Pacific" present the feature of the remaining peaks of the mountains of a submerged continent, for the reason that these peaks are thickly studded with cyclopean statues, remnants of the civilization of a dense and cultivated people, who must have, of necessity, occupied a widely extended area. On the backs of these images is to be found the "ansated cross" and the same modified to the outlines of the human form. A full description, with plate showing the land with the thickly planted statues, also with copies of the images, is to be found in the January number, 1870, of the *London Builder*.

In the *Naturalist*, published at Salem, Massachusetts, in one of the early numbers (about 36), is to be found a description of some very ancient and curious carving on the crest walls of the mountains of South America, older by far, it is averred, than the races now living. The strangeness of these tracings is in that they exhibit the

<sup>1</sup> Once more, remember the Hindu Vithoba [a form of Vishnu] crucified in space, the significance of the "sacred sign," the Svastika, Plato's Decussated Man in Space, etc.

<sup>2</sup> See MS, p. 27, etc.

outlines of a man stretched out on a cross,<sup>1</sup> by a series of drawings, by which from the form of a *man* that of a *cross* springs, but so done that the cross may be taken as the man, or the man as the cross. . . .

It is known that tradition among the Aztecs has handed down a very perfect account of the *deluge* . . . Baron Humboldt says that we are to look for the country of Aztalan, the original country of the Aztecs, as high up, at least, as the 42nd parallel north, whence journeying, they at last arrived in the vale of Mexico. In that vale the earthen mounds of the far north become the elegant stone pyramidal, and other structures, whose remains are now found. The correspondence between the Aztec remains and those of the Egyptians is well known. . . . Atwater, from examination of hundreds of them, is convinced that their authors had a knowledge of astronomy. As to one of the most perfect of the pyramidal structures among the Aztecs, Humboldt gives a description to the following effect.

"The form of this pyramid [of Papantla] which has seven stories, is more tapering than any other monument of this kind yet discovered, but its height is not remarkable, being but 57 feet, its base but 25 feet on each side. However, it is remarkable on one account: it is built entirely of hewn stones, of an extraordinary size, and very beautifully shaped. Three staircases lead to the top, the steps of which were decorated with hieroglyphical sculptures and small *niches*, arranged with great symmetry. The number of these niches seem to allude to the 318 simple and compound signs of the days of their civil calendar."

318 is the Gnostic value of Christ, and the famous number of the trained or circumcized servants of Abram. When it is considered that 318 is an *abstract value*, and *universal*, as expressive of a diameter value to a circumference of *unity*, its use in the composition of a civil calendar becomes manifest.<sup>2</sup>

Identical glyphs, numbers and esoteric symbols are found in Egypt, Peru, Mexico, Easter Island, India, Chaldea, and Central Asia—Crucified Men, and symbols of the evolution of races from Gods—and yet behold Science repudiating the idea of a human race other than one made in *our* image; Theology clinging to its 6,000 years of Creation; Anthropology teaching our descent from the ape; and the Clergy tracing it from Adam 4,004 years B. C. !

Shall one, for fear of incurring the penalty of being called a superstitious fool, and even a liar, abstain from furnishing proofs—as good as any existent—only because that day, when all the SEVEN KEYS shall be delivered unto Science, or rather the men of learning and research in the department of symbology, has not yet dawned? In the face of the crushing discoveries of Geology and Anthropology with regard to the antiquity of man, shall we—in order to avoid the usual penalty that awaits every one who strays outside the beaten paths of either Theology or Materialism—hold to the 6,000 years and "special creation," or accept in submissive admiration our genealogy and descent from the ape? Not so, as long as it is known that the Secret Records hold the said SEVEN KEYS to the mystery of the genesis of man. Faulty,

<sup>1</sup> See farther on the description given of the early Âryan Initiation of Vishvakarman crucifying the Sun, Vikarttana, shorn of his beams—on a cruciform lathe.

<sup>2</sup> Skinner, *Source of Measures*, 1875 edition, Sect II, § 24, pp. 54-9

materialistic, and biassed as the scientific theories may be, they are a thousand times nearer the truth than the vagaries of Theology. The latter are in their death agony for every one but the most uncompromising bigot and fanatic. [Or rather, some of its defenders must have lost their reason. For what can one think when, in the face of the dead-letter absurdities of the *Bible*, these are still publicly supported, and as fiercely as ever, and one finds the Theologians maintaining that though "the Scriptures carefully refrain [?] from making any direct contribution to scientific knowledge, they have *never* stumbled upon any statement which will not abide the light of Advancing Science !!!<sup>1</sup>]

Hence we have no choice but either to blindly accept the deductions of Science, or to cut ourselves adrift from it, and withstand it fearlessly to its face, stating what the SECRET DOCTRINE teaches us, and being fully prepared to bear the consequences.

But let us see whether Science, in its materialistic speculations, and even Theology, in its death-rattle and supreme struggle to reconcile the 6,000 years since Adam with Sir Charles Lyell's *Geological Evidences of the Antiquity of Man*, do not themselves unconsciously give us a helping hand. Ethnology, on the confession of some of its most learned votaries, finds it already impossible to account for the varieties in the human race, unless the hypothesis of the creation of several Adams be accepted. They speak of "a white Adam and a black Adam, a red Adam and a yellow Adam."<sup>2</sup> Were they Hindus enumerating the rebirths of Vâmadeva, from the *Linga Purâna*, they could say little more. For, enumerating the repeated births of Shiva, they show him in one Kalpa of a white complexion, in another of a black colour, in still another of a red colour, after which the Kumâra becomes "four youths of a yellow colour." This strange "coincidence," as Mr. Proctor would say, speaks only in favour of scientific intuition, as Shiva-Kumâra simply represents, allegorically, the human Races during the genesis of man. But it has led to another intuitional phenomenon—in the theological ranks this time. The unknown author of *Primeval Man*, in a desperate effort to screen the Divine Revelation from the merciless and eloquent discoveries of Geology and Anthropology, remarking that "it would be unfortunate if the defenders of the *Bible* should be driven into the position of either surrendering the inspiration of Scripture, or denying the conclusions of Geologists"—finds a compromise. Nay, he devotes a thick volume to proving this fact: "Adam was not the first man<sup>3</sup> created upon this earth."

<sup>1</sup> *Primeval Man Unveiled, or the Anthropology of the Bible*, by the author (unknown) of *The Stars and the Angels*, 1870, p. 14

<sup>2</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 195

<sup>3</sup> Especially in the face of the evidence furnished by the authorized *Bible* itself in *Genesis* iv, 16, 17, which shows Cain going to the land of Nod and there marrying a wife

The exhumed relics of pre-Adamic man, "instead of shaking our confidence in Scripture, supply additional proof of its veracity."<sup>1</sup> How so? In the simplest way imaginable; for the author argues that, henceforth "we [the clergy] are enabled to leave scientific men to pursue their studies without attempting to coerce them by the fear of heresy." This must be a relief indeed to Messrs. Huxley, Tyndall, and Sir Charles Lyell!

The Bible narrative *does not commence with creation*, as is commonly supposed, but with the formation of Adam and Eve, *millions of years after* our planet had been created. Its previous history, so far as Scripture is concerned, is yet unwritten. . . . There may have been not one, but twenty different races upon the earth before the time of Adam, just as there may be twenty different races of men on other worlds.<sup>2</sup>

Who, then, or what were those races, since the author still maintains that Adam is *the first man of our race*? It was *the Satanic Race and Races*! "Satan [was] never in heaven, Angels and men [being] one species." It was the pre-Adamic race of "Angels that sinned." Satan was the "first prince of this world," we read. Having died in consequence of his rebellion, he remained on earth as a *disembodied Spirit*, and tempted Adam and Eve.

The earlier ages of the Satanic race, and more especially *during the life-time of Satan* [! ! !], may have been a period of patriarchal civilization and comparative repose—a time of Tubal-Cains and Jubals, when both sciences and arts attempted to strike their roots into the accursed ground . . . What a subject for an epic!

There are inevitable incidents which must have occurred. We see before us the gay primeval lover wooing his blushing bride at dewy eve under the Danish oaks, that then grew where now no oaks will grow . . . the grey primeval patriarch the primeval offspring innocently gambolling by his side . . . A thousand such pictures rise before us!<sup>3</sup>

The retrospective glance at this Satanic "blushing bride," in the days of Satan's innocence, does not lose in poetry as it gains in originality. Quite the reverse. The modern Christian bride—who does not often blush nowadays before her gay modern lovers—might even derive a moral lesson from this daughter of Satan, created in the exuberant fancy of her first human biographer. These pictures—and to appreciate them at their true value they must be examined in the volume that describes them—are all suggested with a view to reconcile the infallibility of revealed Scripture with Sir Charles Lyell's *Antiquity of Man*, and other damaging scientific works. But this does not prevent truth and fact appearing at the foundation of these vagaries, which the author has not dared to sign with his own, or even a borrowed, name. For his pre-Adamic Races—not Satanic but simply Atlantean, and the Hermaphrodites before the latter—are mentioned in the *Bible*, if read esoterically, as they are in the Secret Doctrine. The SEVEN KEYS open the

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 194

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 55.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., pp. 206-7.

mysteries, past and future, of the seven great Root-Races, and of the seven Kalpas. Though the genesis of man, and even the geology, of Esotericism will surely be rejected by Science, just as much as the Satanic and pre-Adamic Races, yet if the Scientists, having no other way out of their difficulties, are compelled to choose between the two, we feel certain that—Scripture notwithstanding—once the Mystery Language is approximately mastered, it is the archaic teaching that will be accepted.

## SECTION 3

### PRIMORDIAL SUBSTANCE AND DIVINE THOUGHT

As it would seem irrational to affirm that we already know all existing causes, permission must be given to assume, if need be, an entirely new agent. . . .

Assuming what is not strictly accurate as yet, that the undulatory hypothesis accounts for all the facts, we are called on to decide whether the existence of an undulating ether is thereby proved. We cannot positively affirm that no other supposition will explain the facts. Newton's corpuscular hypothesis is admitted to have broken down on Interference, and there is at the present day no rival. Still, it is extremely desirable in all such hypotheses to find some collateral confirmation, some evidence *aliunde* [elsewhere], of the supposed Ether. Some hypotheses consist of assumptions as to the minute structure and operations of bodies. From the nature of the case, these assumptions can never be proved by direct means. Their only merit is their suitability to express the phenomena. They are *Representative Fictions*.

*Logic*, by Alexander Bain, LL D , Part II, pp 131-2 (1873)

ETHER—this *hypothetical Proteus*, one of the “representative fictions” of modern Science, which, nevertheless, was so long accepted—is one of the lower “principles” of what we call Primordial Substance (Ākāsha, in Sanskrit), one of the dreams of old, which has now again become the dream of modern Science. It is the greatest, as it is the boldest, of the surviving speculations of ancient philosophers. For the Occultists, however, both ETHER and the Primordial Substance are realities. To put it plainly, ETHER is the Astral Light, and the Primordial Substance is ĀKĀSHA, the UPĀDHI of DIVINE THOUGHT.

In modern language, the latter would be better named COSMIC IDEATION, Spirit; the former, COSMIC SUBSTANCE, Matter. These, the Alpha and the Omega of Being, are but the two facets of the one Absolute Existence. The latter was never addressed, or even mentioned, by any name in antiquity, except in allegory. In the oldest Āryan race, the Hindu, the worship of the intellectual classes at no time ever consisted in an adoration of marvellous form and art, however fervent, as with the Greeks; an adoration, which led later on to anthropomorphism. But while the Greek philosopher adored form, and the Hindu sage alone “perceived the true relation of earthly beauty and eternal truth”—the uneducated of every nation understood neither, at any time.



They do not understand it even now. The evolution of the God-idea proceeds apace with man's own intellectual evolution. So true is it that the noblest ideal to which the religious spirit of one age can soar, will appear but a gross caricature to the philosophic mind in a succeeding epoch ! The philosophers themselves had to be *initiated into perceptive mysteries*, before they could grasp the correct idea of the Ancients in relation to this most metaphysical subject. Otherwise—outside such Initiation—for every thinker there will be a “thus far shalt thou go and no farther” mapped out by his intellectual capacity, as clearly and as unmistakably as there is one for the progress of any nation or race in its cycle by the law of Karma. Outside of Initiation, the ideals of contemporary religious thought must always have their wings clipped, and remain unable to soar higher ; for idealistic, as well as realistic, thinkers, and even free-thinkers, are but the outcome and the natural product of their respective environments and periods. The ideals of each are but the necessary results of their temperaments, and the outcome of that phase of intellectual progress to which a nation, in its collectivity, has attained. Hence, as already remarked, the highest flights of modern Western metaphysics have fallen far short of the truth. Much of current Agnostic speculation on the existence of the “First Cause” is little better than veiled Materialism—the terminology alone being different. Even so great a thinker as Mr. Herbert Spencer speaks of the “Unknowable” occasionally in terms that demonstrate the lethal influence of materialistic thought, which, like the deadly Sirocco, has withered and blighted all current ontological speculation.

[For instance, when he terms the “First Cause” the “Unknowable,” a “power *manifesting* through phenomena,” and “an infinite eternal *energy*,” (?) it is clear that he has grasped solely the *physical* aspect of the Mystery of Being—the Energies of Cosmic Substance only. The co-eternal aspect of the ONE REALITY, Cosmic Ideation, is absolutely omitted from consideration, and as to its Noumenon, it seems non-existent in the mind of the great thinker. Without doubt, this *one-sided* mode of dealing with the problem is due largely to the pernicious Western practice of subordinating Consciousness (to matter,) or regarding it as a “bye-product” of molecular motion.]

From the early ages of the Fourth Race, when Spirit alone was worshipped and the Mystery was made manifest, down to the last palmy days of Grecian art, at the dawn of Christianity, the Hellenes alone had dared publicly to raise an altar to the “Unknown God.” Whatever St. Paul may have had in his profound mind, when declaring to the Athenians that this “Unknown,” which they ignorantly worshipped, was the true God announced by himself—that Deity was *not* “Jehovah,” nor was he “the maker of the world and all

things." For it is not the "God of Israel" but the "Unknown" of the ancient and modern Pantheist that "dwelleth not in temples made with hands."<sup>1</sup>

Divine Thought cannot be defined, nor can its meaning be explained, except by the numberless manifestations of Cosmic Substance, in which the former is *sensed* spiritually by those who can do so. To say this, after having defined it as the Unknown Deity, abstract, impersonal, sexless, which must be placed at the root of every Cosmogony and its subsequent evolution, is equivalent to saying nothing at all. It is like attempting a transcendental equation of conditions, having in hand for deducing the true value of its terms only a number of *unknown* quantities. Its place is found in the old primitive symbolic charts, in which, as already shown, it is represented by a boundless darkness, on the ground of which appears the first central point in white—thus symbolizing coeval and coeternal Spirit-Matter making its appearance in the phenomenal world, before its first differentiation. When "the One becomes Two," it may then be referred to as Spirit and Matter. To "Spirit" is referable every manifestation of Consciousness, reflective or direct, and of "unconscious purposiveness"—to adopt a modern expression used in Western philosophy, so-called—as evidenced in the Vital Principle, and Nature's submission to the majestic sequence of immutable Law. "Matter" must be regarded as objectivity in its purest abstraction, the self-existing basis, whose septenary manvantaric differentiations constitute the objective reality underlying the phenomena of each phase of conscious existence. During the period of Universal Pralaya, Cosmic Ideation is non-existent; and the variously differentiated states of Cosmic Substance are resolved back again into the primary state of abstract potential objectivity.

Manvantaric impulse commences with the re-awakening of Cosmic Ideation, the Universal Mind, concurrently with, and parallel to, the primary emergence of Cosmic Substance—the latter being the manvantaric vehicle of the former—from its undifferentiated pralayaic state. Then, Absolute Wisdom mirrors itself in its Ideation; which, by a transcendental process, superior to and incomprehensible by human Consciousness, results in Cosmic Energy, Fohat. Thrilling through the bosom of inert Substance, Fohat impels it to activity, and guides its primary differentiations on all the seven planes of Cosmic Consciousness. There are thus *Seven Protyles*—as they are now called, whereas Âryan antiquity named them the Seven Prakritis, or Natures—serving, severally, as the *relatively* homogeneous bases, which in the course of the increasing heterogeneity, in the evolution of the Universe, differentiate

<sup>1</sup> Acts, xvii, 23, 24

into the marvellous complexity presented by phenomena on the planes of perception. The term "relatively" is used designedly, because the very existence of such a process, resulting in the primary segregations of undifferentiated Cosmic Substance into its septenary bases of evolution, compels us to regard the Protyle of each plane as only a *mediate* phase assumed by Substance in its passage from abstract, into full objectivity.<sup>1</sup>

Cosmic Ideation is said to be non-existent during pralayic periods, for the simple reason that there is no one, and nothing, to perceive its effects. There can be no manifestation of consciousness, semi-consciousness, or even "unconscious purposiveness," except through a vehicle of Matter; that is to say, on this our plane, wherein human consciousness, *in its normal state*, cannot soar beyond what is known as transcendental metaphysics, it is only through some molecular aggregation, or fabric, that Spirit wells up in a stream of individual or sub-conscious subjectivity. And as Matter existing apart from perception is a mere abstraction, both of these aspects of the ABSOLUTE—Cosmic Substance and Cosmic Ideation—are mutually interdependent. In strict accuracy, to avoid confusion and misconception, the term "Matter" ought to be applied to the aggregate of objects of possible perception, and the term "Substance" to Noumena, for inasmuch as the phenomena of *our plane* are the creations of the perceiving Ego—the modifications of its own subjectivity—all the "states of matter representing the aggregate of perceived objects" can have but a relative and purely phenomenal existence for the children of our plane. As the modern Idealists would say, the co-operation of Subject and Object results in the sense-object, or phenomenon.

But this does not necessarily lead to the conclusion that it is the same on all other planes; that the co-operation of the two, on the planes of their septenary differentiation, results in a septenary aggregate of phenomena which are likewise non-existent *per se*, though concrete realities for the Entities of whose experience they form a part, in the same manner as the rocks and rivers around us are real from the standpoint of a Physicist, though unreal illusions of sense from that of the Metaphysician. It would be an error to say, or even conceive, such a thing. From the standpoint of the highest metaphysics, the whole Universe, Gods included, is an Illusion (Mâyâ). But the illusion of him who is in himself an illusion differs on every plane of consciousness; and we have no more right to dogmatize about the possible nature

<sup>1</sup> The term Protyle is due to Prof. Crookes, the eminent Chemist, who has given that name to *pre-Matter*, if one may so call primordial and purely homogeneous substance, suspected, if not actually yet found, by Science in the ultimate composition of the atom. But the incipient segregation of primordial matter into atoms and molecules takes its rise subsequent to the evolution of our Seven Protyles. It is the last of these that Prof. Crookes is in search of, having recently detected the possibility of its existence on our plane.

of the perceptive faculties of an Ego on, say, the sixth plane, than we have to identify our perceptions with, or make them a standard for, those of an ant, in its mode of consciousness. Cosmic Ideation focussed in a Principle, or Upâdhi (Basis), results as the consciousness of the individual Ego. Its manifestation varies with the degree of the Upâdhi. For instance, through that known as Manas, it wells up as Mind-Consciousness; through the more finely differentiated fabric (sixth state of matter) of Buddhi—resting on the experience of Manas as its basis—as a stream of Spiritual Intuition.

The pure Object apart from consciousness is unknown to us, while living on the plane of our three-dimensional world, for we know only the mental states it excites in the perceiving Ego. And, so long as the contrast of Subject and Object endures—to wit, so long as we enjoy our five senses and no more, and do not know how to divorce our all-perceiving Ego from the thralldom of these senses—so long will it be impossible for the *personal* Ego to break through the barrier which separates it from a knowledge of “things in themselves,” or Substance.

That Ego, progressing in an arc of ascending subjectivity, must exhaust the experience of every plane. But not till the Unit is merged in the ALL, whether on this or any other plane, and Subject and Object alike vanish in the absolute negation of the Nirvânic State—negation, again, only *from our plane*—not until then, is scaled that peak of Omniscience, the Knowledge of things-in-themselves, and the solution of the yet more awful riddle approached, before which even the highest Dhyân Chohan must bow in silence and ignorance—the Unspeakable Mystery of that which is called by the Vedântins, PARABRAHMAN.

Therefore, such being the case, all those who have sought to give a name to the Incognizable Principle have simply degraded it. Even to speak of Cosmic Ideation—save in its *phenomenal* aspect—is like trying to bottle up primordial Chaos, or to put a printed label on ETERNITY.

What, then, is the “Primordial Substance,” that mysterious object of which Alchemy was ever talking, and which was the subject of philosophical speculation in every age? What can it be finally, even in its *phenomenal* pre-differentiation? Even *that* is the ALL of manifested Nature and—*nothing* to our senses. It is mentioned under various names in every Cosmogony, referred to in every Philosophy, and shown to be, to this day, the ever graspe-luding Proteus in Nature. We touch and do not feel it; we look at it without seeing it; we breathe it and do not perceive it; we hear and smell it without the smallest cognition that it is there; for it is in every molecule of that which, in our illusion and ignorance, we regard as Matter in any of its

states, or conceive as a feeling, a thought, an emotion. In short, it is the Upâdhi, or Vehicle, of every possible phenomenon, whether physical, mental, or psychic. In the opening sentences of *Genesis*, and in the Chaldean Cosmogony; in the *Purânas* of India, and in the *Book of the Dead* of Egypt; everywhere it opens the cycle of manifestation. It is termed Chaos, and the Face of the Waters, incubated by the Spirit, proceeding from the Unknown, whatever that Spirit's name may be. (See Section 4.)

The authors of the Sacred Scriptures in India go deeper into the origin of the evolution of things than do Thales or Job, for they say :

From Intelligence [called Mahat, in the *Purânas*], associated with Ignorance [Īshvara, as a *personal deity*], attended by its projective power, in which the quality of dullness [*tamas*, insensibility] predominates, proceeds Ether—from ether, air, from air heat, from heat, water, and from water, earth with everything on it<sup>1</sup>

“From This, from this same Self, was the Ether produced,” says the *Veda*.<sup>2</sup>

It thus becomes evident that it is not *this* Ether—sprung at the fourth remove from an *emanation* of “Intelligence, associated with Ignorance”—which is the high Principle, the *deific* Entity worshipped by the Greeks and Latins under the name of “Pater Omnipotens Æther,” and “Magnus Æther,” in its collective aggregate. The septenary gradation, and the innumerable sub-divisions and differences, made by the Ancients between the powers of Ether collectively—from its outward fringe of effects, with which our Science is so familiar, up to the “Imponderable Substance,” once admitted as the “Ether of Space,” but now about to be rejected—have been ever a vexing riddle for every branch of knowledge. The Mythologists and Symbologists of our day, confused by this incomprehensible glorification on the one hand, and degradation on the other, of the same deified Entity and in the same religious systems, are often driven to the most ludicrous mistakes. The Church, firm as a rock in each and all of her early errors of interpretation, has made of Ether the abode of her Satanic legions. The whole Hierarchy of the “Fallen” Angels is there; the *Cosmocratores*, the “World Bearers,” according to Bossuet; *Mundi Tenentes*, the “World Holders,” as Tertullian calls them; *Mundi Domini*, “World Dominations,” or rather *Dominators*; the *Curbati*, or “Curved,” etc.; thus making of the stars and celestial orbs in their courses—Devils!

[For it is thus that the Church has interpreted the verse :  
“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities,

<sup>1</sup> Compare *Sāṅkhya Kārika*, v. iii, and commentaries

<sup>2</sup> See *Taittirīyaka Upanishad*, Second Valli, First Anuvāka

against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world.”<sup>1</sup> Further, St. Paul mentions the spiritual *malices* (“wickedness,” in English texts), SPREAD IN THE AIR—*spiritualia nequitiae cœlestibus*<sup>2</sup>—the Latin texts giving various names to these “malices,” the innocent “Elementals.” But the Church is right this time, though wrong is calling them all Devils. The Astral Light, or lower Ether, is full of conscious, semi-conscious and unconscious entities; only the church has less power over them than over invisible microbes or mosquitoes.]

The difference made between the seven states of Ether—itself one of the Seven Cosmic Principles, whereas the Æther of the ancients is *Universal Fire*—may be seen in the injunctions by Zoroaster and Psellus, respectively. The former said: “Consult it only when it is without form or figure”—*absque forma et figura*—which means, without flames or burning coals. “When it has a form, heed it not”; teaches Psellus, “but when it is formless, obey it, for it is then *sacred fire*, and all it will reveal thee shall be true.”<sup>3</sup> This proves that Ether, itself an aspect of Âkâsha, has in its turn several aspects or “principles.”

All the ancient nations deified Æther in its imponderable aspect and potency. Virgil calls Jupiter, *Pater Omnipotens Æther*, the “Great Æther.”<sup>4</sup> The Hindus have also placed it among their deities, under the name of Âkâsha, the synthesis of Æther. And the author of the Homœomerian System of philosophy, Anaxagoras of Clazomenæ, firmly believed that the spiritual prototypes of all things, as well as their elements, were to be found in the boundless Æther, where they were generated, whence they evolved, and whither they returned—an Occult teaching.

It thus becomes clear that it is from Æther, in its highest synthetic aspect, once anthropomorphized, that sprang the first idea of a personal Creative Deity. With the philosophical Hindus the Elements are *tâmasa*, i.e., “unenlightened by intellect, which they obscure.”

We have now to exhaust the question of the mystical meaning of “Primordial Chaos” and of the Root-Principle, and show how they were connected in the ancient philosophies with Âkâsha, incorrectly translated Æther, and also with Mâyâ, Illusion, of which Îshvara is the male aspect. We shall speak further on of the intelligent “Principle,” or rather of the invisible *immaterial* properties, in the visible and material elements, that “sprang from the Primordial Chaos.”

<sup>1</sup> Ephesians, vi, 12

<sup>2</sup> [Lit. iniquitous entities in higher “planes”]

<sup>3</sup> Oracles of Zoroaster, “Effatum,” xvi

<sup>4</sup> Georgica, Book II, 325

For "what is the primordial Chaos but *Æther*?"—it is asked, in *Isis Unveiled*. Not the modern Ether; not such as is recognized now, but such as was known to the ancient philosophers long before the time of Moses—*Æther*, with all its mysterious and occult properties, containing in itself the germs of universal creation. The *Upper Æther*, or *Âkâsha*, is the Celestial Virgin and Mother of every existing form and being, from whose bosom, as soon as "incubated" by the Divine Spirit, are called into existence Matter and Life, Force and Action. *Æther* is the *Aditi* of the Hindus, and it is *Âkâsha*. Electricity, magnetism, heat, light, and chemical action are so little understood even now when fresh facts are constantly widening the range of our knowledge. Who knows where ends the power of this protean giant—*Æther*, or whence its mysterious origin? Who, we mean, that denies the Spirit that works in it, and evolves out of it all visible forms?

It will be an easy task to show that the cosmogonical legends all over the world are based on a knowledge among the Ancients of those sciences, which have, in our days, allied themselves in support of the doctrine of evolution; and that further research may demonstrate that these Ancients were far better acquainted with the fact of evolution itself, embracing both its physical and spiritual aspects, than we are now.

With the old philosophers, evolution was a universal theorem, a doctrine embracing the whole, and an established principle, whereas our modern evolutionists are enabled to present us merely with speculative theoretics, with *particular*, if not wholly negative theorems. It is idle for the representatives of our modern wisdom to close the debate and pretend that the question is settled, merely because the obscure phraseology of the Mosaic account clashes with the definite exegesis of "Exact Science."<sup>1</sup>

If we turn to the *Ordinances of Manu*, we find the prototype of all these ideas. Mostly lost, to the Western world, in their original form, disfigured by later interpolations and additions, they have, nevertheless, preserved quite enough of their ancient spirit to show its character.

"[Removing the darkness], the Self-existent Lord [Vishnu, Nârâyana, etc.] became manifest, . . . [and], wishing to produce different beings from his own body [Essence], first created water alone; in that he cast seed. That became a golden egg."<sup>2</sup>

Whence this Self-existent Lord? It is called THIS, and is spoken of as "Darkness, imperceptible, without definite qualities, undiscoverable, unknowable, as if wholly in sleep."<sup>3</sup> Having dwelt in that Egg for a whole Divine Year, he "who is called in the world *Brahmâ*,"<sup>4</sup> splits that Egg in two, and

<sup>1</sup> *Isis Unveiled*

<sup>2</sup> *Op cit*, I, v, 6-9, see A. C. Burnell's translation

<sup>3</sup> *Op cit*, v, 5

<sup>4</sup> *Op cit*, v, 11

from the upper portion he forms the heaven, from the lower the earth, and from the middle the sky and "the perpetual place of waters."<sup>1</sup>

Directly following these verses, however, there is something more important for us, as it entirely corroborates our Esoteric teachings. From verses 14 to 36, evolution is given in the order described in the Esoteric Philosophy. This cannot be easily gainsaid. Even Medhâtithi, the son of Virasvâmin, and the author of the Commentary, the *Manubhâsya*, whose date, according to the western Orientalists, is 1,000 A.D., helps us with his remarks to the elucidation of the truth. He shows himself either unwilling to give out more, because he knew what had to be kept from the profane, or else he was really puzzled. Still, what he does give out makes the septenary principle in man and Nature plain enough.

Let us begin with Chapter I of the *Ordinances*, or "Laws," after the Self-existent Lord, the *unmanifesting* Logos of the Unknown "Darkness" becomes manifested in the Golden Egg. It is from this Egg, from

11. "That which is the undiscete [undifferentiated] cause, eternal, which is and is not, from It issued that Male who is called in the world *Brahmâ* "

Here, as in all genuine philosophical systems, we find even the "Egg," or the Circle, or Zero, Boundless Infinity, referred to as "It,"<sup>2</sup> and *Brahmâ*, the first Unit only, referred to as the *Male God*, i.e., the fructifying Principle. It is ①, or 10 (ten), the Decad. On the plane of the Septenary, or our World, only, it is called *Brahmâ*. On that of the *Unified Decad*, in the realm of Reality, this male *Brahmâ* is an Illusion.

14. "From Self (*Âtmanah*) he created Mind, which is and is not; and from Mind, Ego-ism [Self-Consciousness] (a), the ruler (b), the Lord."

(a) The Mind is *Manas*. Medhâtithi, the commentator, justly observes here that it is the reverse of this, and shows already interpolation and re-arranging, for it is *Manas* that springs from *Ahamkâra* or (Universal) Self-Consciousness, as *Manas* in the microcosm springs from *Mahat*, or *Mahâ-Buddhi* (*Buddhi*, in man). For *Manas* is dual. As shown and translated by Colebrooke, "Mind, serving both for sense and action, is an organ by affinity, being cognate with the rest",<sup>3</sup> "the rest" here meaning that *Manas*, our Fifth Principle (the *fifth*, because the body was named the *first*, which is the reverse of the true philosophical order), is in affinity both with *Âtmâ-Buddhi* and with the lower Four Principles. Hence, our teaching: namely, that *Manas* follows *Âtmâ-Buddhi* to *Devachan*, and that the Lower *Manas*, that is to say,

<sup>1</sup> Op cit, v, 13

<sup>2</sup> The ideal apex of the Pythagorean Triangle

<sup>3</sup> See Burnell's translation, edited by Ed W. Hopkins, Ph D



the dregs or residue of Manas, remains with Kâma Rûpa, in Limbus, or Kâma Loka, the abode of the "Shells."

(b) Such is the meaning of Manas which "is and is not." Medhâtithi translates this as "the one conscious of the I," or Ego, not "the ruler," as do the Orientalists. Thus also they translate the following shloka :

16. "He also, having made the subtile parts of those six [the great Self and the five organs of sense], of unmeasured brightness, to enter into the elements of self (*âtmanâtrâsu*),<sup>1</sup> created all beings."

When, according to Medhâtithi, it ought to read *mâtrâbhih*<sup>2</sup> instead of *âtmanâtrâsu*, and thus would read :

"He having pervaded the subtile parts of those six, of unmeasured brightness, by elements of self, created all beings."

The latter reading must be the correct one, since He, the Self, is what we call Âtmâ, and thus constitutes the seventh principle, the synthesis of the "six." Such is also the opinion of the editor of the *Mânava-Dharma-Shâstra*, who seems to have intuitionally entered far deeper into the spirit of the philosophy than has the translator of the "Ordinances of Manu" the late Dr. Burnell; for he hesitates little between the text of Kullûka Bhatta and the Commentary of Medhâtithi. Rejecting the *tanmâtra*, or subtile elements, and the *âtmanâtrâsu* of Kullûka Bhatta, he says, applying the principles to the Cosmic Self :

"The six appear rather to be the *manas* plus the five principles of ether, air, fire, water, earth, 'having united five portions of those six with the spiritual element [the seventh] he (thus) created all existing things;' . . . *âtmanâtra* is therefore the spiritual atom as opposed to the elementary, not reflexive 'elements of himself'."

Thus he corrects the translation of verse 17

"As the subtile elements of bodily forms of this One depend on these six, so the wise call his form Sharîra."

And he adds that "elements" mean here portions, or parts (or principles), which reading is borne out by verse 19, which says :

"This non-eternal (Universe) arises then from the Eternal, by means of the subtile elements of forms of those seven very glorious Principles (*Purusha*)."

Commenting upon which emendation of Medhâtithi, the editor remarks: "the five elements *plus* mind [*Manas*] and Self-Consciousness [*Ahamkâra*]"<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Lit Portion or portions of the Supreme Spirit

<sup>2</sup> Lit To measure

<sup>3</sup> *Ahamkâra*, as universal Self-Consciousness, has a triple aspect, as has also *Manas*. For this "conception of I," or the Ego, is either *sattva*, "pure quietude," or appears as *rajas*, "active," or remains *tamas*, "stagnant," in darkness. It belongs to Heaven and Earth, and assumes the properties of either

are probably meant; ‘subtile elements,’ as before [meaning] ‘fine portions of form’ [or principles].” Verse 20 shows this, when saying of these five elements, or “fine portions of form” (*Rûpa plus Manas and Self-Consciousness*) that they constitute the “Seven Purusha,” or Principles, called in the *Purânas* the “Seven Prakritis.”

Moreover, these “five elements,” or “fine portions,” are spoken of in verse 27 as “those which are called the atomic destructible portions,” and which are, therefore, “distinct from the atoms of the *Nyâya*.”

This creative *Brahmâ*, issuing from the Mundane or Golden Egg, unites in himself both the male and female principles. He is, in short, the same as all the creative Protologi. Of *Brahmâ*, however, it could not be said, as of *Dionysos*, “*πρωτόγονον διφυή τρίγονον Βακχείον Ἀνακτα Ἄγριον ἀρρητὸν κρύφιον δикέρωτα δίμορφον*” [that he is “first-born, two-sexed, of triple aspect, unrestrained Bacchic Lord, holy, not to be mentioned openly, two-horned, twofold”]—a lunar *Jehovah*, *Bacchus* truly, with *David* dancing nude before his symbol in the ark—because no licentious *Dionysia* were ever established in his name and honour. All such public worship was exoteric, and the great universal symbols were distorted universally, as those of *Krishna* are now by the *Vallabâchâryas* of Bombay, the followers of the infant God. But are these popular gods the true *Deity*? Are they the Apex and synthesis of the sevenfold creation, man included? Never! Each and all are one of the rungs of that septenary ladder of Divine Consciousness, Pagan as Christian. *Ain Soph* is said to manifest through the *Seven Letters of Jehovah’s name* who, having usurped the place of the Unknown Limitless, was given by his devotees his *Seven Angels of the Presence*—his *Seven Principles*. Yet, they are mentioned in almost every school. In the pure *Sânkhya* philosophy *mahat*, *ahamkâra* and the five *tanmâtras* are called the seven *Prakritis* or Natures, and are counted from *Mahâ-Buddhi*, or *Mahat*, down to Earth.<sup>1</sup>

Nevertheless, however disfigured for Rabbinical purposes is the original *Elohistic* version by *Ezra*, however repulsive at times is even the esoteric meaning in the Hebrew scrolls, far more so indeed than its outward veil or cloaking may be—once the *Jehovistic* portions are eliminated, the Mosaic Books are found full of purely occult and priceless knowledge, especially in the first six chapters.

Read by the aid of the *Kabalah*, one finds a matchless temple of occult truths, a well of deeply concealed beauty, hidden under a structure, the visible architecture of which, notwithstanding its apparent symmetry, is unable to stand the criticism of cold reason, or to reveal its age, for it belongs to all

<sup>1</sup> See *Sânkhya Kârîkâ*, V III, and Commentaries

the ages. There is more Wisdom concealed under the exoteric *fables* of the *Purânas* and *Bible* than in all the exoteric facts and science in the literature of the world, and more OCCULT true Science, than there is of exact knowledge in all the academies. Or, in plainer and stronger language, there is as much esoteric wisdom in some portions of the exoteric *Purânas* and *Pentateuch*, as there is of nonsense and of designedly childish fancy, when read only in the dead-letter and murderous interpretations of the great dogmatic religions, and especially of their sects.

Let anyone read the first verses of *Genesis* and reflect upon them. There, "God" commands another "god," who does his bidding—even in the cautious English Protestant authorized translation of King James I.

In the "beginning"—the Hebrew language having no word to express the idea of eternity<sup>1</sup>—"God" fashions the *Heaven* and the *Earth*, and the latter is "without form and void," while the former is in fact no Heaven, but the "Deep," *Chaos*, with darkness upon its face.<sup>2</sup>

"And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters,"<sup>3</sup> or the Great Deep of the Infinite Space. And this Spirit is *Nârâ-yana*, or *Vishnu*.

"And God said, Let there be a firmament. . ." (i, 6) And "God," the second, obeyed and "made the firmament." (i, 7) "And God said let there be light." And "there was light." Now the latter does not mean light at all, but, as in the *Kabalah*, the androgyne "Adam Kadmon," or *Sephira* (*Spiritual Light*), for they are one; or, according to the *Chaldean Book of Numbers*, the secondary angels, the first being the *Elohim*, who are the aggregate of that "fashioning" God. For to whom are those words of command addressed? And who is it who commands? That which commands is the eternal Law, and he who obeys, the *Elohim*, the known quantity acting in and with x, or the coefficient of the unknown quantity, the Force of the

<sup>1</sup> The word "eternity," by which Christian theologians interpret the term "for ever and ever," does not exist in the Hebrew tongue. "*Oulam*," says Le Clerc, only imports a time when beginning or end is not known. It does not mean "infinite duration," and the term "for ever," in the *Old Testament*, only signifies a "long time." Nor is the word "eternity" used in the Christian sense in the *Purânas*. For in *Vishnu Purâna*, it is clearly stated that by Eternity and Immortality only "existence to the end of the Kalpa" is meant. (Book II, chap. viii.)

<sup>2</sup> Orphic Theogony is purely Oriental and Indian in its spirit. The successive transformations it has undergone have now separated it widely from the spirit of ancient Cosmogony, as may be seen by comparing it even with Hesiod's *Theogony*. Yet the truly Aryan Hindu spirit breaks forth everywhere in both the Hesiodic and Orphic systems. (See the remarkable work of James Darmesteter, "*Cosmogonies Aryennes*," in his *Essais Orientaux*.) Thus the original Greek conception of *Chaos* is that of the Secret Wisdom Religion. In Hesiod, therefore, *Chaos* is infinite, boundless, endless and beginningless in duration, an abstraction and a visible presence at the same time, SPACE filled with darkness, which is primordial matter in its pre-cosmic state. For in its etymological sense, *Chaos* is Space, according to Aristotle, and Space is the ever Unseen and Unknowable Deity, in our philosophy.

<sup>3</sup> *Genesis*, i, 2

ONE Force. All this is Occultism, and is found in the archaic STANZAS. It is perfectly immaterial whether we call these "Forces" the Dhyân Chohans, or the Auphanim as Ezekiel does

"The one Universal Light, which to man is *Darkness*, is ever existent," says the Chaldean *Book of Numbers*. From it proceeds periodically the *Energy*, which is reflected in the Deep, or Chaos, the store-house of future Worlds, and, once awakened, stirs up and fructifies the latent Forces, which are the ever present eternal potentialities in it. Then awake anew the Brahmâs and Buddhas—the co-eternal Forces—and a new Universe springs into being. . . .

In the *Sepher Yetzireh*, the Kabalistic Book of Creation, the author has evidently repeated the words of Manu. In it, the Divine Substance is represented as having alone existed from the eternity, boundless and absolute; and as having emitted from itself the Spirit<sup>1</sup> "One is the Spirit of the living God, blessed be ITS name, which liveth for ever! Voice, Spirit, and Word, this is the Holy Spirit."<sup>2</sup> And this is the Kabalistic abstract Trinity, so unceremoniously anthropomorphized by the Christian Fathers. From this triple ONE emanated the whole Kosmos. First from ONE emanated number TWO, or Air (the Father), the creative Element; and then number THREE, Water (the Mother), proceeded from Air, Ether or Fire completes the Mystic Four, the Arbo-al<sup>3</sup> "When the Concealed of the concealed wanted to reveal Himself, he first made a Point [the Primordial Point, or the first Sephira,<sup>1</sup> Air, or Holy Ghost,] shaped into a sacred Form, [the Ten Sephiroth, or the Heavenly Man,] and covered it with a rich and splendid Garment, *that is the world.*"<sup>5</sup>

"He maketh the Wind His messengers, flaming Fire His servants"<sup>6</sup>; says the *Yetzireh*, showing the cosmical character of the later euhemerized Elements, and that Spirit permeates every atom in Kosmos.

[Everywhere throughout the Acts Paul calls the invisible Kosmic Beings the "Elements" But now the Elements are degraded into, and limited to, atoms of which nothing is known so far, and which are only "children of necessity," as is Ether also. As we said in *Isis Unveiled* "The poor primordial Elements have long been exiled, and our ambitious Physicists run races, to determine who shall add one more to the fledgling brood of the sixty and odd elementary substances." Meanwhile there rages a war in modern Chemistry about terms. We are denied the right to call these substances "chemical elements," for these are not "primordial principles of self-existing essences, out of which the universe was fashioned," according to Plato. Such ideas associated with the word *element* were good enough for the "old Greek Philosophy," but modern Science rejects them, for, as Prof. William Crookes says "they are unfortunate terms," and experimental Science will have "nothing to do with any kind of essences except those which it can see, smell, or taste. It leaves others to the metaphysicians. . . . We must feel grateful even for so much!]

<sup>1</sup> The *manifested* Spirit Absolute, Divine Spirit is one with absolute Divine Substance, Parabrahman and Mûlaprakriti are one in essence. Therefore, Cosmic Ideation and Cosmic Substance, in their primal character, are one also.

<sup>2</sup> *Sepher Yetzireh*, Chap. I, Mishna ix

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. It is from "Arba" that Abram is derived

<sup>4</sup> Sephiroth in the 1888 edition

<sup>5</sup> Zohar, I, 2a

<sup>6</sup> *Sepher Yetzireh*, Mishna ix 10.

This "primordial Substance" is called by some *Chaos*. Plato and the Pythagoreans named it the *Soul of the World*, after it had been impregnated by the Spirit of that which broods over the Primeval Waters, or *Chaos*. It is by being reflected in it, say the Kabalists, that the brooding Principle created the phantasmagoria of a visible, manifested Universe. *Chaos* before, *Ether* after the "reflection," it is still the Deity that pervades Space and all things. It is the Invisible, imponderable Spirit of things, and the invisible, but only too tangible, fluid that radiates from the fingers of the healthy magnetizer, for it is Vital Electricity—LIFE itself. Called in derision, by the Marquis de Mirville, the "nebulous Almighty," it is to this day termed by the Theurgists and Occultists "the living Fire";<sup>1</sup> and there is not a Hindu who practises at dawn a certain kind of meditation but knows its effects. It is the "Spirit of Light" and *Magnes*. As truly expressed by an opponent, *Magus* and *Magnes* are two branches growing from the same trunk and shooting forth the same resultants. And in this appellation of "living Fire" we may also discover the meaning of the puzzling sentence in the *Zend Avesta* there is "a Fire that gives knowledge of the future, science and amiable speech"; that is to say, which develops an extraordinary eloquence in the sibyl, the sensitive, and even some orators.

This "Fire" is spoken of in all the Hindu Sacred Books, as also in the Kabalistic works. The *Zohar* explains it as the "white hidden fire, in the *Risha Havurah*" (the White Head), whose Will causes the fiery fluid to flow in 370 currents in every direction of the Universe. It is identical with the "Serpent that runs with 370 leaps" of the *Siphra Dzenioutha*, the Serpent, which, when the "Perfect Man," the Metatron, is raised, i.e., when the divine man indwells in the animal man, becomes three spirits, or *Âtmâ-Buddhi-Manas*, in our Theosophical phraseology.<sup>2</sup>

Spirit, then, or Cosmic Ideation, and Cosmic Substance—one of whose "principles" is *Ether*—are one, and include the ELEMENTS, in the sense

<sup>1</sup> Writing upon this subject, in *Isis Unveiled* we said: The *Chaos* of the ancients, the Zoroastrian Sacred Fire, or the *Atash-Behran* of the Parsis, the *Hermes-fire*, the *Elmes-fire* of the ancient Germans, the *Lightning of Cybele*, the *Burning Torch of Apollo*, the *Flame on the altar of Pan*, the *Inextinguishable Fire* in the temple on the *Acropolis*, and in that of *Vesta*, the *Fire-flame of Pluto's helm*, the brilliant Sparks on the caps of the *Dioscuri*, on the *Gorgon's head*, the *helm of Pallas*, and the *staff of Mercury*, the Egyptian *Ptah-Ra*, the Grecian *Zeus Cataibates* (the Descending) of *Pausanias*, the *Pentecostal Fire-tongues*, the *Burning Bush of Moses*, the *Pillar of Fire of Exodus*, and the "Burning Lamp" of *Abram*, the *Eternal Fire* of the "bottomless pit", the *Delphic oracular vapours*, the *Sidereal Light* of the *Rosicrucians*, the *ÂKÂSHA* of the Hindu adepts, the *Astral Light* of *Éliphas Lévi*, the *Nerve-Aura* and the *Fluid of the Magnetists*, the *Od of Reichenbach*, the *Psychod* and *Ectenic Force of Thury*, the *Psychic Force of Sergeant Cox*, and the atmospheric magnetism of some Naturalists, galvanism, and finally, electricity—all these are but various names for many different manifestations or effects of the same mysterious, all-pervading Cause, the Greek *Archæus*. We now add—it is all this and much more (Vol I, p 125)

<sup>2</sup> See Volume 4, Part 2, Section 4 The Many Meanings of the "War in Heaven."

St. Paul attaches to them. These elements are the veiled Synthesis standing for Dhyân Chohans, Devas, Sephiroth, Amshaspendis, Archangels, etc. The Ether of Science—the *Ilus* of Berossus, or the *Protyle* of Chemistry—constitutes, so to speak, the *rude* material, relatively, out of which the above-named “Builders,” following the plan traced out for them eternally in the DIVINE THOUGHT, fashion the systems in the Cosmos. They are “myths,” we are told. No more so than Ether and the Atoms, we answer. The two latter are *absolute* necessities of Physical Science, and the “Builders” are as absolute a necessity of metaphysics. We are twitted with the objection : You *never saw them*. And we ask the Materialists : Have you ever seen Ether, or your *Atoms*, or, again, your *FORCE* ? Moreover, one of the greatest Western Evolutionists of our modern day, co-“discoverer” with Darwin, Mr. A. R. Wallace, when discussing the inadequacy of Natural Selection alone accounting for the physical form of Man, admits the guiding action of “higher intelligences” as a “*necessary part of the great laws which govern the material Universe.*”<sup>1</sup>

These “higher intelligences” are the Dhyân Chohans of the Occultists.

Indeed, there are few Myths in any religious system worthy of the name, but have a *historical* as well as a *scientific* foundation. “Myths,” justly observes Pococke, “are now proved to be *fables*, just in proportion as we *misunderstand* them, *truths*, in proportion as *they were once understood.*”

The most distinct and the one prevailing idea, found in all ancient teaching, with reference to Cosmic Evolution and the first “creation” of our Globe with all its products, organic and *inorganic*—strange word for an Occultist to use !—is that the whole Kosmos has sprung from the DIVINE THOUGHT. This Thought impregnates Matter, which is co-eternal with the ONE REALITY, and all that lives and breathes evolves from the Emanations of the ONE *Immutable*, Parabrahman-Mûlaprakriti, the eternal One-Root. The former of these, in its aspect of the Central Point turned inward, so to say, into regions quite inaccessible to human intellect, is absolute abstraction ; whereas, in its aspect as *Mûlaprakriti*, the eternal Root of all, it gives one at least some hazy comprehension of the Mystery of Being.

Therefore, it was taught in the *inner* temples that this visible Universe of Spirit and Matter is but the concrete Image of the ideal Abstraction, it was built on the Model of the first Divine Idea. Thus our Universe existed from eternity in a latent state. The Soul animating this purely spiritual Universe is the Central Sun, the highest Deity Itself. It was not the One who built the concrete form of the idea, but the First-Begotten, and, as it was constructed on the geometrical figure of the dodecahedron,<sup>2</sup> the First-Begotten “was pleased to employ 12,000 years in its creation.” The latter number is

<sup>1</sup> *Contributions to the Theory of Natural Selection*

<sup>2</sup> Plato, *Timæus*

expressed in the Tyrrhenian Cosmogony,<sup>1</sup> which shows man created in the sixth millennium. This agrees with the Egyptian theory of 6,000 "years,"<sup>2</sup> and with the Hebrew computation. But it is the exoteric form of it. The secret computation explains that the "12,000 and the 6,000 years" are Years of Brahmâ, one Day of Brahmâ being equal to 4,320,000,000 years. Sanchuniathon, in his *Cosmogony*,<sup>3</sup> declares that when the Wind (Spirit) became enamoured of its own principles (Chaos), an intimate union took place, which connection was called Pothos (πόθος), and from this sprang the seed of all. And the Chaos knew not its own production, for it was *senseless*, but from its embrace with the Wind was generated Môt, or the Ilus (Mud).<sup>4</sup> From this proceeded the spores of creation and the generation of the Universe.

Zeus-Zên (Æther), and Chthonia (Chaotic Earth) and Metis (Water), his wives; Osiris—also representing Æther, the first emanation of the Supreme Deity, Amun, the primeval source of Light—and Isis-Latona, the Goddess Earth and Water again, Mithras,<sup>5</sup> the rock-born God, the symbol of the male Mundane Fire, or the personified Primordial Light, and Mithra, the Fire-Goddess, at once his mother and his wife—the pure element of Fire, the active or male principle, regarded as light and heat, in conjunction with Earth and Water, or matter, the female, or passive, element of cosmical generation—Mithras who is the son of Bordj, the Persian mundane mountain,<sup>6</sup> from which he flashed out as a radiant ray of light; Brahmâ, the Fire-God, and his prolific consort, and the Hindu Agni, the refulgent Deity from whose body issue a thousand streams of glory and seven tongues of flame, and in whose honour certain Brâhmans to this day maintain a perpetual fire, Shiva, personated by Meru, the mundane mountain of the Hindus, the terrific Fire-God, who is said in the legend to have descended from heaven, like the Jewish Jehovah, "in a pillar of fire", and a dozen other archaic double-sexed Deities—all loudly proclaim their hidden meaning. And what could be the dual meaning of these myths but the psycho-chemical principle of primordial creation; the First Evolution, in its triple manifestation of Spirit, Force and Matter, the divine *correlation*, at its starting point, allegorized as the marriage of Fire and Water, the products of electrifying Spirit—the union of the male active principle with the female passive element—which become the parents of their tellurian child, Cosmic Matter, the Prima Materia, whose Soul is Æther, and whose Shadow is the Astral Light!<sup>7</sup>

But the fragments of the cosmogonical systems that have reached us are now rejected as absurd fables. Nevertheless, Occult Science—which has survived even the Great Flood that submerged the antediluvian Giants and with them their very memory, save the record preserved in the SECRET DOCTRINE, the Bible and other Scriptures—still holds the Key to all the world problems.

Let us, then, apply this Key to the rare fragments of long-forgotten Cosmogonies, and by means of their scattered portions endeavour to re-establish the once Universal Cosmogony of the SECRET DOCTRINE. The Key fits

<sup>1</sup> Suidas, *sub voce* "Tyrrhenia." See *Cory's Ancient Fragments*, p. 309, 2nd ed.

<sup>2</sup> The reader will understand that by "years" is meant "ages," not mere periods of 13 lunar months each.

<sup>3</sup> See the Greek translation by Philon Byblius.

<sup>4</sup> Cory, *Op. cit.*, p. 3.

<sup>5</sup> *Isis Unveiled*, I, p. 342.

<sup>6</sup> Mithras was regarded among the Persians as the θεός ἐκ πέτρας—the God from the rock.

<sup>7</sup> Bordj is called a fire-mountain, a volcano; therefore it contains fire, rock, earth and water, the male, or active, and the female, or passive, elements. The myth is suggestive.

<sup>8</sup> *Op. cit.*, I, p. 156.

them all. No one can seriously study ancient philosophies without perceiving that the striking similitude of conception in all of them, in their exoteric form very frequently, and in their hidden spirit invariably, is the result of no mere coincidence, but of a concurrent design, and that, during the youth of mankind, there was but one language, one knowledge, one universal religion, when there were no churches, no creeds or sects, but when every man was a priest unto himself. And, if it is shown that already in those early ages, which are shut out from our sight by the exuberant growth of tradition, human religious thought developed in uniform sympathy in every portion of the globe, then it becomes evident that that thought, born under whatever latitude, in the cold North or the burning South, in the East or West, was inspired by the same revelations, and that man was nurtured under the protecting shadow of the same TREE OF KNOWLEDGE



## SECTION 4

### CHAOS : THEOS : KOSMOS

THESE three are the containment of Space ; or, as a learned Kabalist has defined it : “ Space, the all-containing uncontained, is the primary embodiment of simple unity . . . boundless extension.”<sup>1</sup> But, he asks again, “ Boundless extension of what ? ”—and makes the correct reply : “ *the unknown container of all, space, the unknown first Cause.* ” This is a most correct definition and answer ; most esoteric and true, from every aspect of Occult Teaching.

Space, which, in their ignorance and with their iconoclastic tendency to destroy every philosophic idea of old, the modern wiseacres have proclaimed “ an abstract idea ” and a void, is, in reality, the Container and *the body of the Universe* in its seven principles. It is a body of limitless extent, whose PRINCIPLES, in Occult phraseology—each being in its turn a septenary—manifest in our phenomenal World only the grossest fabric of *their sub-divisions*. “ No one has ever seen the Elements in their fulness,” the DOCTRINE teaches. We have to search for our Wisdom in the original expressions and synonyms of the primeval peoples. Even the Jews, the latest of these, show the same idea, in their Kabalistic teachings, when they speak of the seven-headed Serpent of Space, called “ the great Sea.”

In the beginning, the Alhim created the Heavens and the Earth, the Six [Sephiroth] They created Six, and on these all things are based And these [Six] depend upon the seven forms of the Cranium up to the Dignity of all Dignities<sup>2</sup>

Now *Wind, Air and Spirit* have ever been synonymous in every nation. *Pneuma* (Spirit) and *Anemos* (Wind), with the Greeks, *Spiritus* and *Ventus*, with the Latins, were convertible terms, even if dissociated from the original idea of the Breath of Life. In the “ Forces ” of Science we see but the *material effect* of the *spiritual effect* of one or other of the four primordial Elements, transmitted to us by the Fourth Race just as we shall transmit Ether, or rather its gross sub-division, in its fulness to the Sixth Root-Race.

<sup>1</sup> *New Aspects of Life*, by Henry Pratt, M D , pp 3, 4

<sup>2</sup> *Siphrah Dzenioutha*, 1, sect 16

“Chaos” was called *senseless* by the Ancients, because—Chaos and Space being synonymous—it represented and contained in itself all the Elements in their rudimentary, undifferentiated State. They made Ether, the fifth Element, the synthesis of the other four; for the Ether of the Greek philosophers was not its dregs, although indeed they knew more than Science does now of these dregs which are rightly enough supposed to act as an agent for many forces that manifest on Earth. Their Ether was the Âkâsha of the Hindus; the Ether accepted in Physics is but one of its sub-divisions, on our plane, the *Astral Light* of the Kabalists with all its *evil* as well as its good effects.

Seeing that the Essence of Æther, or the Unseen Space, was considered divine, as being the supposed Veil of Deity, it was regarded as the Medium between this life and the next. The Ancients considered that when the directing active Intelligences—the Gods—retired from any portion of Ether *in our Space*, or the four realms which they superintend, then that particular region was left in the possession of *evil*, so called by reason of the absence from it of *Good*

The existence of Spirit in the common Mediator, the Ether, is denied by Materialism, while Theology makes of it a Personal God. But the Kabalist holds that both are wrong, saying that in Ether, the elements represent only Matter, the blind Cosmic Forces of Nature, while Spirit represents the Intelligence which directs them. The Âryan, Hermetic, Orphic, and Pythagorean cosmogonical doctrines, as well as those of Sanchuniathon and Berosus, are all based upon one irrefutable formula, viz, that Æther and Chaos, or, in the Platonic language, Mind and Matter, were the two primeval and eternal principles of the Universe, utterly independent of anything else. The former was the all-vivifying intellectual principle, while Chaos was a shapeless liquid principle, without “form or sense”, from the union of which two sprang into existence the Universe, or rather the Universal World, the first Androgynous Deity—Chaotic Matter becoming its Body, and Ether its Soul. According to the phraseology of a Fragment of Hermias “Chaos, from this union with Spirit, obtaining sense, shone with pleasure, and thus was produced Protogonos the (First-Born) Light”<sup>1</sup> This is the universal Trinity, based on the metaphysical conceptions of the Ancients, who, reasoning by analogy, made of man, who is a compound of Intellect and Matter, the Microcosm of the Macrocosm, or Great Universe.<sup>2</sup>

“*Nature abhors a Vacuum*” said the Peripatetics, who though Materialists in their way, comprehended perhaps why Democritus, with his instructor Leucippus, taught that the first principles of all things contained in the Universe were Atoms and a *vacuum*. The latter means simply *latent* Deity, or Force which, before its first manifestation—when it became WILL, communicating the first impulse to these atoms—was the great *Nothingness*, Ain Soph, or NOTHING, and, therefore, to every sense, a Void, or CHAOS

<sup>1</sup> Damascius, in his Theogony, calls it Dis, “the disposer of all things” *Cory's Ancient Fragments*, p 314

<sup>2</sup> *Isis Unveiled*, I, p 341

This Chaos, however, became the "Soul of the World," according to Plato and the Pythagoreans. According to Hindu teaching, Deity, in the shape of Æther or Âkâsha, pervades all things. It was called, therefore, by the Theurgists the "Living Fire," the "Spirit of Light," and sometimes *Magnes*. According to Plato, the highest Deity itself built the Universe in the geometrical form of the Dodecahedron, and its "first-begotten" was born of Chaos and Primordial Light—the Central Sun. This "First-Born," however, was only the aggregate of the Host of the "Builders," the first constructive Forces, who are called in ancient Cosmogonies, the *Ancients*, born of the Deep or Chaos, and the "First Point." He is the Tetragrammaton, so-called, at the head of the Seven lower Sephiroth. This was also the belief of the Chaldeans. Philo, the Jew, speaking very flippantly of the first instructors of his ancestors, writes as follows .

These Chaldeans were of opinion that the Kosmos, *among the things that exist* [?], is a single Point, either being itself God [Theos] or that in it is God, comprehending the Soul of all things.<sup>1</sup>

Chaos, Theos, Kosmos are but the three aspects<sup>2</sup> of their synthesis—SPACE. One can never hope to solve the mystery of this *Tetraktys*, by holding to the dead-letter even of the old philosophies as now extant. But even in these, CHAOS, THEOS, KOSMOS = SPACE are identified in all Eternity, as the One Unknown Space, the last word on which will never, perhaps, be known, before our Seventh Round. Nevertheless, the allégories and metaphysical symbols about the primeval and perfect CUBE are remarkable, even in the exoteric *Purânas*.

There, also, Brahmâ is Theos, evolving out of Chaos, or the Great "Deep," the Waters, over which Spirit = SPACE, personified by *ayana* [periods] the Spirit moving over the face of the future boundless Kosmos—is silently hovering, in the first hour of re-awakening. It is also Vishnu, sleeping on Ananta Shesha, the great Serpent of Eternity, of which Western Theology, ignorant of the *Kabalah*, the only key that opens the secrets of the *Bible*, has made—the Devil. It is the first *triangle* or the Pythagorean *triad*, the "God of the three Aspects," before it is transformed, through the perfect quadrature of the Infinite Circle, into the "four-faced" Brahmâ. "Of him who is and yet is not, from Non-Being, the Eternal Cause, is born the Being, Purusha," says Manu, the legislator.

In the Egyptian mythology, Kneph, the Eternal *Unrevealed* God, is represented by a snake-emblem of Eternity encircling a water urn, with its head hovering over the waters, which it incubates with its breath. In this case, the Serpent is the Agathodaimôn, the Good Spirit, in its opposite aspect, it is the Kakodaimôn, the Evil Spirit. In

<sup>1</sup> "Migration of Abraham," 32

<sup>2</sup> Symbols, in the 1893 edition

the Scandinavian *Eddas*, the honey-dew, the fruit of the Gods, and of the creative busy Yggdrasil bees, falls during the hours of night, when the atmosphere is impregnated with humidity, and in the Northern mythologies, as the passive principle of creation, it typifies the creation of the Universe out of Water. This dew is the Astral Light in one of its combinations, and possesses creative as well as destructive properties. In the Chaldean legend of Berosus, Oannes or Dagon, the man-fish, instructing the people, shows the infant World created out of Water, and all beings originating from this *Prima Materia*. Moses teaches that only Earth and Water can bring into existence a Living Soul and we read in the Scriptures that herbs could not grow until the Eternal caused it to rain upon Earth. In the Mexican *Popol Vuh*, man is created out of mud or clay (*terre glaise*), taken from under the Water. Brahmâ creates the great Muni, or first man, seated on his Lotus, only after having called spirits into being, who thus enjoyed over mortals a priority of existence; and he creates him out of Water, Air and Earth. Alchemists claim that the primordial or pre-adamic Earth, when reduced to its first substance, is in its second stage of transformation like clear Water, the first being the Alkahest proper. This primordial substance is said to contain within itself the essence of all that goes to make up man, it contains not only all the elements of his physical being, but even the "breath of life" in a latent state, ready to be awakened. This it derives from the "incubation" of the "Spirit of God" upon the face of the Waters—Chaos. In fact, this substance is Chaos itself. From this it was that Paracelsus claimed to be able to make his Homunculi, and this is why Thales, the great natural philosopher, maintained that Water was the principle of all things in nature.<sup>1</sup> Job says that dead things are formed from under the Waters, and the inhabitants thereof.<sup>2</sup> In the original text, instead of "dead things," it is written dead Rephaim, Giants or mighty Primitive Men, from whom Evolution may one day trace our present race.<sup>3</sup>

"In the primordial state of the creation," says Polier's *Mythologie des Indous*, "the rudimental universe, submerged in water, reposed in the bosom of Vishnu. Sprung from this chaos and darkness, Brahmâ, the architect of the world, poised on a lotus-leaf, floated [moved] upon the waters, unable to discern anything but water and darkness." Perceiving such a dismal state of things, Brahmâ soliloquizes in consternation: "Who am I? Whence came I?" Then he hears a voice:<sup>4</sup> "Direct your thoughts to Bhagavat." Brahmâ, rising from his natatory position, seats himself upon the lotus, in an attitude of contemplation, and reflects upon the Eternal, who, pleased with this evidence of piety, disperses the primeval darkness and opens his understanding. "After this Brahmâ issues from the Universal Egg [Infinite Chaos] as light, for his understanding is now opened, and he sets himself to work. He moves on the eternal Waters, with the spirit of God within himself; and in his capacity of Mover of the Waters he is Vishnu, or *Nârâyana*."

<sup>1</sup> With the Greeks, the "River-Gods" all of them the Sons of the Primeval Ocean—Chaos, in its masculine aspect—were the respective ancestors of the Hellenic races. For them the OCEAN was the Father of the Gods, and thus in this connection they had anticipated the theories of Thales, as rightly observed by Aristotle. (*Metaph*, I, 3-5)

<sup>2</sup> Ch. xxvi, 5

<sup>3</sup> *Isis Unveiled*, I, p. 133-4

<sup>4</sup> The "Spirit," or hidden voice of the Mantras; the active manifestation of the latent Force, or occult potency.

This is, of course, exoteric ; yet, in its main idea, it is as identical as possible with the Egyptian Cosmogony, which, in its opening sentences, shows Atthor,<sup>1</sup> or Mother Night, representing illimitable darkness, as the primeval element which covered the infinite abyss, animated by Water and the universal spirit of the Eternal, dwelling alone in Chaos. Similarly in the Jewish Scriptures, the history of the creation opens with the Spirit of God and his creative Emanation—another Deity.<sup>2</sup>

The *Zohar* teaches that it is the primordial elements—the trinity of Fire, Air and Water—the four cardinal points, and all the Forces of Nature, which form collectively the VOICE of the WILL, *Memrab*, or the “ Word,” the Logos of the Absolute Silent ALL “ The indivisible Point, limitless and unknowable,” spreads itself over space, and thus forms a Veil, the *Mûlaprakriti* of Para-brahman, which conceals this Absolute Point.

In the Cosmogonies of all the nations it is the “ Architects,” synthesized by the Demiurge, in the *Bible* the Elohim, or Alhim, who fashion Kosmos out of Chaos, and who are the collective *Theos*, male-female, Spirit and Matter. “ By a series (*yom*) of foundations (*hasoth*), the Alhim caused earth and heaven to be.”<sup>3</sup> In *Genesis*, it is first Alhim, then Jahva-Alhim, and finally Jehovah—after the separation of the sexes in the fourth chapter. It is noticeable that nowhere, except in the later, or rather the last Cosmogonies of our Fifth Race, does the ineffable and unutterable NAME<sup>4</sup>—the symbol of the Unknown Deity, which was used only in the MYSTERIES—occur in connection with the “ Creation ” of the Universe. It is the Movers, the Runners, the Theoi (from *θέειν* to run), who do the work of formation, the “ Messengers ” of the Manvantaric Law, who have now become in Christianity simply the “ Messengers ” (*Malachim*). This seems to be also the case in Hinduism or early Brâhmanism. For in the *Rig Veda*, it is not Brahmâ who creates, but the *Prajâpatis*, the “ Lords of Being,” who are also the *Rishis*, the term Rishi, according to Professor Mahadeo Kunte, being connected with the word to move, to lead on, applied to them in their terrestrial character, when, as Patriarchs, they lead their Hosts on the Seven Rivers.

Moreover, the very word “ God,” in the singular, embracing all the Gods, or Theoi, came to the “ superior ” civilized nations from a strange source, one as entirely and pre-eminently phallic as the sincere outspokenness

<sup>1</sup> Orthography of the *Archaic Dictionary*

<sup>2</sup> We do not mean the current or accepted *Bible*, but the *real* Jewish Scripture, now kabalistically explained

<sup>3</sup> See *Genesis*, II, 4

<sup>4</sup> It is “ unutterable ” for the simple reason that it is non-existent. It never was either a name, or any word at all, but an *idea* that could not be expressed. A substitute was created for it in the century preceding our era

of the Indian Lingam. The attempt to derive God from the Anglo-Saxon synonym *Good* is an abandoned idea, for in no other language, from the Persian *Khoda* down to the Latin *Deus*, has an instance been found of the name for God being derived from the attribute of Goodness. To the Latin races it comes from the Âryan *Dyaus* (the Day); to the Slavonian, from the Greek *Bacchus* (*Bagh-bog*); and to the Saxon races directly from the Hebrew *Yod*, or *Jod*. The latter is י, the number-letter 10, male and female, and *Yod* is the phallic hook. Hence the Saxon *Godh*, the Germanic *Gott*, and the English *God*. This symbolic term may be said to represent the Creator of Physical Humanity, on the *terrestrial* plane; but surely it had nothing to do with the Formation, or "Creation," of either Spirit, Gods, or Kosmos?

Chaos-Theos-Kosmos, the Triple Deity, is *all in all*. Therefore, it is said to be male and female, good and evil, positive and negative, the whole series of contrasted qualities. When latent, in *Pralaya*, it is incognizable and becomes the Unknowable Deity. It can be known only in its active functions; hence as Matter-Force and *living* Spirit, the correlations and outcome, or the expression, on the visible plane, of the ultimate and ever-to-be unknown Unity.

In its turn this Triple Unit is the producer of the Four Primary Elements,<sup>1</sup> which are known, in our visible terrestrial Nature, as the seven (so far the five) Elements, each divisible into forty-nine—seven times seven—sub-elements, with about seventy of which Chemistry is acquainted. Every Cosmical Element, such as Fire, Air, Water, Earth, partaking of the qualities and defects of its Primaries, is in its nature Good and Evil, Force or Spirit, and Matter, etc., and each, therefore, is at one and the same time Life and Death, Health and Disease, Action and Reaction. They are ever forming Matter, under the never-ceasing impulse of the One Element, the Incognizable, represented in the world of phenomena by Æther. They are "the immortal Gods who give birth and life to all."

In *The Philosophical Writings of Solomon Ben Yehudah Ibn Gebirol*, in treating of the structure of the Universe, it is said

R Yehudah began, it is written "Elohim said Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters" (*Genesis*, i, 6) Come, See! At the time that the Holy created the world He created 7 heavens Above. He created 7 earths Below, 7 seas, 7 days, 7 rivers, 7 weeks, 7 years, 7 times, and 7,000 years that the world has been. The Holy is in the seventh of all (the millenium)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Cosmic Tabernacle of Moses, erected by him in the Desert, was square, representing the four Cardinal Points and the four Elements, as Josephus tells his readers (*Antiq* 1, viii, ch xxii). The idea was taken from the pyramids in Egypt, and also in Tyre, where the pyramids became pillars. The Genii, or Angels, have their abodes in these four points respectively.

<sup>2</sup> Isaac Myer's *Qabbalah*, published 1888, p. 415.

This, besides showing a strange identity with the Cosmogony of the *Purânas*,<sup>1</sup> corroborates all our teachings with regard to number seven, as briefly given in *Esoteric Buddhism*.

The Hindus have an endless series of allegories to express this idea. In the Primordial Chaos, before it became developed into the *Sapta Samudra*, or Seven Oceans—emblematical of the Seven Gunas, or conditioned Qualities, composed of Trigunas (*Sattva*, *Rajas* and *Tamas*)—lie latent both *Amrita*, or Immortality, and *Visha*, or Poison, Death, Evil. This is to be found in the allegorical Churning of the Ocean by the Gods. *Amrita* is beyond any Guna, for it is *unconditioned, per se*; but when once fallen into phenomenal creation, it became mixed with Evil, Chaos, with latent *Theos* in it, before *Kosmos* was evolved. Hence we find *Vishnu*, the personification of Eternal Law, periodically calling forth *Kosmos* into activity, or, in allegorical phraseology, churning out of the Primitive Ocean, or Boundless Chaos, the *Amrita* of Eternity, reserved only for the Gods and *Devas*; and in the task he has to employ *Nâgas* and *Asuras*, or Demons in exoteric Hinduism. The whole allegory is highly philosophical, and indeed we find it repeated in every ancient system of philosophy. Thus we find it in *Plato*, who having fully embraced the ideas which *Pythagoras* had brought from India, compiled and published them in a form more intelligible than the original mysterious numerals of the Greek Sage. Thus the *Kosmos* is the “Son” with *Plato*, having for his Father and Mother Divine Thought and Matter.<sup>2</sup>

“The Egyptians,” says *Dunlap*, “distinguished between an Older and Younger *Horus*, the former the brother of *Osiris*; the latter the Son of *Osiris* and *Isis*.”<sup>3</sup> The first is the Idea of the World remaining in the Demiurgic Mind, “born in Darkness before the Creation of the World.” The second *Horus* is this “Idea” going forth from the *Logos*, becoming clothed with matter, and assuming an actual existence.<sup>4</sup>

The *Chaldean Oracles* speak of the “Mundane God, eternal, boundless, young and old, of winding form.”<sup>5</sup> This “winding form” is a figure to express the vibratory motion of the Astral Light, with which the ancient priests were perfectly well acquainted, though the name “Astral Light” was invented by the Martinists.

Cosmolatry has the finger of scorn pointed at its superstitions by modern Science. Science, however, before laughing at it, ought, as advised by a

<sup>1</sup> As, for instance, in *Vishnu Purâna*, Vol I, Bk I

<sup>2</sup> *Plutarch, De Iside et Osiride*, lvi.

<sup>3</sup> *Vestiges of the Spirit History of Man*, by S F *Dunlap*, p 189 (1858)

<sup>4</sup> *Movers, Phoinizer*, 268,

<sup>5</sup> *Cory's Ancient Fragments*, p 240.

French savant, “to remodel entirely its own system of cosmo-pneumatological education.” *Satis eloquentiæ, sapientiæ parum* ! [Many words but little sense.] Cosmolatry, like Pantheism, in its ultimate expression, may be made to express itself in the same words in which the *Purâna* describes Vishnu :

He is only the *ideal cause* of the *potencies* to be created in the work of creation, and from him proceed the potencies to be created, after they have become the real cause. Save *that* one ideal cause, there is no other to which *the word* can be referred. *Through the potency of that cause, every created thing comes by its proper nature* !

<sup>1</sup> *Vishnu Purâna*, Vol I, p 66



## SECTION 5

### ON THE HIDDEN DEITY, ITS SYMBOLS AND GLYPHS

THE Logos, or Creative Deity, the “Word made Flesh,” of every religion, has to be traced to its ultimate source and Essence. In India, it is a Proteus of 1,008 divine names and aspects in each of its *personal* transformations, from Brahmâ-Purusha, through the Seven *divine* Rishis and Ten *Semi-divine* Prajâpatis (also Rishis), down to the *divine-human* Avatâras. The same puzzling problem of the “One in many,” and the multitude in One, is found in other Pantheons; in the Egyptian, the Greek and the Chaldeo-Judaic, the latter having made confusion still more confused by presenting its Gods as euhemerizations, in the shapes of Patriarchs. And these Patriarchs are now accepted by those who reject Romulus as a myth, and are represented as living and *historical* Entities. *Verbum satis sapienti!* [A word is enough to a wise man.]

In the *Zohar*, Ain Soph is also the One, the Infinite Unity. This was known to the very few learned Fathers of the Church, who were aware that Jehovah was no “highest” God, but a *third-rate* Potency. But while complaining bitterly of the Gnostics, and saying “our Heretics hold . . . that PROPATÔR is known but to the ONLY-BEGOTTEN son<sup>1</sup> [who is Brahmâ], that is to the Mind [Nous],” Irenæus failed to mention that the Jews did the same in their real secret books. Valentinus, “the profoundest doctor of the Gnosis,” held that “there was a perfect Aîôn who existed before Bythos [the first Father of unfathomable nature, which is the Second Logos], called Propatôr.” It is this AÎÔN who springs as a Ray from Ain Soph, who *does not* create, and AÎÔN who creates, or *through* whom, rather, everything is created, or evolves. For, as the Basilidians taught, “there was a Supreme God, Abrasax, by whom was created Mind [Mahat, in Sanskrit, Nous, in Greek]. From Mind proceeded the Word, Logos, from the Word, Providence [Divine Light, rather]; then from it Virtue and Wisdom in Principalities, Powers,

<sup>1</sup> Just as Mûlaprakriti is known only to ĩshvara, the Logos, as he is called by T. Subba Row

Angels, etc." By these Angels the 365 Æons were created. "Amongst the lowest, indeed, and those who made this world, he [Basilides] sets last of all the God of the Jews, whom he denies to be God [and very rightly], affirming he is one of the Angels."

Here, then, we find the same system as in the *Purāṇas*, wherein the Incomprehensible drops a Seed, which becomes the Golden Egg, from which Brahmā is produced. Brahmā produces Mahat, etc. True Esoteric Philosophy, however, speaks neither of "creation," nor of "evolution," in the sense in which the exoteric religions do. All these personified Powers are not evolutions from one another, but so many aspects of the one and sole manifestation of the ABSOLUTE ALL.

The same system as that of the Gnostic Emanations prevails in the Sephirothic aspects of Ain Soph, and, as *these aspects are in Space and Time*, a certain order is maintained in their successive appearances. Therefore, it becomes impossible not to take notice of the great changes that the *Zohar* has undergone under the handling of generations of Christian Mystics. For, even in the metaphysics of the *Talmud*, the "Lower Face" or "Lesser Countenance," or Microprosopus, could never be placed on the same plane of abstract ideals as the Higher, or "Greater Countenance," Macroprosopus. The latter is, in the Chaldean *Kabalah*, a pure abstraction, the Word or LOGOS, or DABAR in Hebrew, which Word, though it becomes in fact a plural number, or "Words," D (a) B (a) R (i) M, when it reflects itself, or falls into the aspect of a Host (of Angels, or Sephiroth—"Number") is still collectively ONE, and on the ideal plane a nought, ○, No-thing." It is without form or being, "with no likeness to anything else."<sup>1</sup> And even Philo calls the Creator, the LOGOS who stands next God, the "SECOND GOD," when he speaks of "the Second God, who is his [the Highest God's] WISDOM."<sup>2</sup> Deity is not God. It is NOTHING, and DARKNESS. It is nameless, and therefore called Ain Soph, the word "Ayin meaning nothing."<sup>3</sup> The "Highest God," the Unmanifested Logos, is Its Son.

Nor are most of the Gnostic systems which have come down to us, mutilated as they are by the Church Fathers, anything better than the distorted shells of the original speculations. Nor were they, moreover, ever open to the public or general reader; for had their hidden meaning or esotericism been revealed, it would have been no more an esoteric teaching, and this could never have been. Marcus, the chief of the Marcosians, who flourished in the middle of the second century, and taught

<sup>1</sup> Franck, *Die Kabala*, p. 126.

<sup>2</sup> Philo, *Quæst. et Solut.*

<sup>3</sup> Franck, *Op. cit.*, p. 153. See also Section 12, "The Theogony of the Creative Gods."

that Deity had to be viewed under the symbol of *four syllables*, gave out more of the esoteric truths than any other Gnostic. But even he was never well understood. For it is only on the surface or dead-letter of his *Revelation* that it appears that God is a Quaternary, to wit, "the Ineffable, the Silence, the Father, and Truth," since in reality it is quite erroneous, and divulges only one more esoteric riddle. This teaching of Marcus was that of the early Kabalists and is ours. For he makes of Deity the Number 30, *in four syllables*, which, translated esoterically, means a Triad or *Triangle*, and a Quaternary or a Square, in all seven, which, on the lower plane, made the seven divine or secret letters of which the God-name is composed. This requires demonstration. In his *Revelation*, speaking of divine mysteries expressed by means of letters and numbers, Marcus narrates how the "Supreme Tetrad came down" unto him "from the region which cannot be seen nor named, *in a female form*, because the world would have been unable to bear her appearing in a male figure," and revealed to him "the generation of the universe, untold before to either Gods or men"

The first sentence already contains a double meaning. Why should the apparition of a female figure be more easily borne, or listened to, by the world than a male figure? On the face of it, this appears nonsensical. But to one who is acquainted with the Mystery Language, it is quite clear and simple. *Esoteric Philosophy*, or the Secret Wisdom, was symbolized by a female form, while a male figure stood for the *Unveiled Mystery*. Hence, the world, not being ready to receive it, could not bear it, and the *Revelation* of Marcus had to be given allegorically. Thus he writes:

When first its Father [sc. of the Tetrad] the Inconceivable, the Beingless, Sexless [the Kabalistic Ain Soph], desired that Its Ineffable [the First Logos, or Æon] should be born, and Its Invisible should be clothed with form, Its mouth opened and uttered the Word like unto Itself. This Word [Logos] standing near showed It what It was, manifesting itself in the form of the Invisible One. Now the uttering of the [Ineffable] Name [through the Word] came to pass in this manner. It [the Supreme Logos] uttered the first Word of its Name, which was a combination [syllable] of four elements [letters]. Then the second combination was added, also four elements. Then the third, composed of ten elements, and after this the fourth was uttered, which contained twelve elements. The utterance of the whole Name consisted thus of thirty elements and four combinations. Each element has its own letters and peculiar character, and pronunciation, and groupings and similitudes; but none of them perceives the form of that of which it is the element, nor understands the utterance of its neighbour, but, what each sounds forth itself, as sounding forth all [it can], that it thinks good to call the whole. . . And these sounds are they which manifest in form the Beingless and Ingenerable Æon, and these are the forms which are called Angels, perpetually beholding the Face of the Father,<sup>1</sup> [the Logos, the "Second God," who stands next God the "Inconceivable," according to Philo]<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The "Seven Angels of the Face," with the Christians

<sup>2</sup> *Philosophumena*, vi, 42

This is as plain as ancient esoteric secrecy could make it. It is as Kabalistic though less veiled than the *Zohar*, in which the mystic names, or attributes, are also four syllabled, twelve, forty-two, and even seventy-two syllabled words<sup>1</sup> The *Tetrad* shows to Marcus the TRUTH in the shape of a naked woman, and letters every limb of that figure, calling her head  $\Lambda$   $\Omega$ , her neck  $\text{B}$   $\Psi$ , shoulders and hands  $\Gamma$   $\text{X}$ , etc. In this, Sephira is easily recognized, the head, or Crown, *Kether*, being numbered 1, the brain, or *Chokmah*, 2, the Heart, or Intelligence, *Binah*, 3, and the other seven Sephiroth representing the limbs of the body. The Sephirothic Tree is the Universe, and Adam Kadmon represents it in the West, as *Brahmâ* represents it in India.

Throughout, the Ten Sephiroth are represented as divided into the Three higher, or the spiritual *Triad*, and the lower Septenary. The true esoteric meaning of the sacred number Seven, though cleverly veiled in the *Zohar*, is betrayed by the double way of writing the term, "in the Beginning," or *Be-rasheeth*, and *Be-raishath*, the latter the "Higher, or Upper Wisdom." As shown by S.L. MacGregor Mathers<sup>1</sup> and Isaac Myer,<sup>2</sup> both of these Kabalists being supported by the best ancient authorities, these words have a dual and secret meaning. *Braisheeth barah Elohim* means, that the six, over which stands the seventh Sephira, belong to the lower material class, or, as the author says: "Seven . . . are applied to the Lower Creation, and Three to the Spiritual Man, the Heavenly Prototypic or First Adam."

When the Theosophists and Occultists say that God is no BEING, for IT is Nothing, NO-THING, they are more reverential and religiously respectful to the Deity than those who call God HE, and thus make of Him a gigantic MALE.

He who studies the *Kabalah* will soon find the same idea in the ultimate thought of its authors, the earlier and great Hebrew Initiates, who got this Secret Wisdom in Babylonia from the Chaldean Hierophants, just as Moses got his in Egypt. The *Zoharic* system cannot very well be judged by its later translations into Latin and other tongues, when all its ideas were softened and made to fit in with the views and policy of its Christian arrangers; for its original ideas are identical with those of all other religious systems. The various Cosmogonies show that the Universal Soul<sup>3</sup> was considered by every archaic nation as the "Mind" of the Demiurgic Creator; and that it was called the Mother, *Sophia*, or the female Wisdom, with the Gnostics; the *Sephira*, with the Jews; *Sarasvati* or *Vâch*, with the Hindus; the *Holy Ghost* also being a female Principle.

<sup>1</sup> See *The Kabbalah Unveiled*, p. 47

<sup>2</sup> See Myers *Qabbalah*, p. 233

<sup>3</sup> In the 1888 edition, this sentence reads—"the archaic Universal soul was held by every nation."

Hence, the *Kurios*, or *Logos*, born from it, was, with the Greeks, the "God, Mind" (*Nous*). "Now *Koros* [*Kurios*] . . . [signifies] the pure and unmixed nature of intellect [Wisdom]," says Plato, in *Cratylus*; and *Kurios* is Mercury (*Mercurius*, *Mar-kurios*), the Divine Wisdom, and "Mercury is Sol [the Sun],"<sup>1</sup> from whom Thot-Hermes received this Divine Wisdom. While, then, the *Logoi* of all countries and religions are correlative, in their sexual aspects, with the female Soul of the World or the "Great Deep," the Deity, from which these Two in One have their being, is ever concealed and called the Hidden One, and is connected only indirectly with "Creation,"<sup>2</sup> as it can act only through the Dual Force emanating from the Eternal Essence. Even *Æsculapius*, called the "Saviour of all," is identical, according to ancient classical writers, with the Egyptian *Ptah*, the Creative Intellect, or Divine Wisdom, and with *Apollo*, *Baal*, *Adonis* and *Hercules*:<sup>3</sup> and *Ptah*, in one of its aspects, is the "Anima Mundi;" the Universal Soul of Plato; the "Divine Spirit" of the Egyptians; the "Holy Ghost" of the early Christians and the Gnostics; and the *Âkâsha* of the Hindus, and even, in its lower aspect, the *Astral Light*. For *Ptah* was originally the "God of the Dead," he into whose bosom they were received, hence the *Limbus* of the Greek Christians, or the *Astral Light*. It was far later that *Ptah* was classed with the Sun-Gods, his name signifying "he who opens," as he is shown to be the first to unveil the face of the dead mummy, to call the Soul to life in his bosom.<sup>4</sup> *Kneph*, the Eternal Unrevealed, is represented by the snake-emblem of eternity encircling a water-urn, with its head hovering over the "Waters," which it incubates with its breath—another form of the one original idea of "Darkness," with its Ray moving on the Waters, etc. As the "Logos-Soul," this permutation is called *Ptah*, as the *Logos-Creator*, he becomes *Imhotep*, his Son, the "God of the handsome face." In their primitive characters, these two were the first Cosmic Duad, *Noot*, Space or "Sky," and *Noon*, the "Primordial Waters," the Androgyne Unity, above whom was the Concealed BREATH of *Kneph*. And all of them had the aquatic animals and plants sacred to them, the *ibis*, the swan, the goose, the crocodile, and the lotus.

Returning to the Kabalistic Deity, this Concealed Unity is then *Ain Soph* (אֵין סוֹפִי *tò pánu, tó áπειρον* [the all, the infinite]), Endless, Boundless, Non-Existent (אֵין) so long as the Absolute is within *Oulom*,<sup>5</sup> the Boundless and

<sup>1</sup> Arnobius, VI, xii.

<sup>2</sup> We employ the term as one accepted and sanctioned by use, and therefore more comprehensible to the reader.

<sup>3</sup> See Dunlap, *Sód the Mysteries of Adoni*, p. 23

<sup>4</sup> See Maspero's *Bulaq Museum*.

<sup>5</sup> With the ancient Jews, as shown by Le Clerc, the word *Oulom* meant simply a time whose beginning or end was not known. The term "Eternity," properly speaking, did not exist in the Hebrew tongue with the meaning applied by Vedântins to Parabrahman, for instance.

termless Time ; as such, Soph cannot be the Creator or even the Modeller of the Universe, nor can It be *Aur* (Light). Therefore Ain Soph is also Darkness. The *immutably* Infinite, and the *absolutely* Boundless, can neither will, think, nor act. To do this, it has to become Finite, and it does so by its Ray penetrating into the Mundane Egg, or Infinite Space, and emanating from it as a Finite God. All this is left to the Ray latent in the One. When the period arrives, the absolute will expand naturally the Force within it, according to the Law of which it is the inner and ultimate Essence. The Hebrews did not adopt the Egg as a symbol, but they substituted for it the "Duplex Heavens," for, translated correctly, the sentence "God made the heavens and the earth" would read: "In and out of his own Essence, as a Womb [the Mundane Egg], God created the Two Heavens." The Christians, however, have chosen the Dove, the bird and not the egg, as the symbol of their Holy Ghost.

"Whoever acquaints himself with Hod, (יה) the Mercabah and the *lahgash* [secret speech or incantation], will learn the secret of secrets." *Lahgash* is nearly identical in meaning with *Vâch*, the hidden power of the Mantras.

When the active period has arrived, from within the eternal essence of Ain Soph, comes forth Sephira, the active Power, called the Primordial Point and the Crown, *Kether*. It is only through her that the "Un-bounded Wisdom" could give a concrete form to the abstract Thought. Two sides of the upper Triangle, by which the ineffable Essence and its manifested body, the Universe, are symbolized, the right side and the base, are composed of unbroken lines; the third, the left side, is dotted. It is through the latter that emerges Sephira. Spreading in every direction, she finally encompasses the whole Triangle. In this emanation the triple Triad is formed. From the invisible Dew falling from the higher *Uni-triad*, the "Head,"—thus leaving 7 Sephiroth only—Sephira creates Primeval Waters, or in other words, Chaos takes shape. It is the first stage towards the solidification of Spirit which, through various modifications, will produce Earth. "*It requires earth and water to make a living soul*," says Moses. It requires the image of an aquatic bird to connect it with Water, the female element of procreation, with the egg and the bird that fecundates it.

When Sephira emerges as an Active Power from within the Latent Deity, she is female, when she assumes the office of a Creator, she becomes a male; hence, she is androgyne. She is the "Father and Mother, Aditi," of the Hindu Cosmogony and of the SECRET DOCTRINE. If the oldest Hebrew scrolls had been preserved, the modern Jehovah-worshipper would have found that many and uncomely were the symbols of the creative God. The frog in the moon, typical of his generative character, was the most frequent. All the

birds and animals now called "unclean" in the *Bible* have been the symbols of this Deity, in days of old. A mask of uncleanness was placed over them, in order to preserve them from destruction, because they were too sacred. The brazen serpent is not a bit more poetical than the goose or swan, if symbols are to be accepted *à la lettre* [literally].

In the words of the *Zohar*

The Indivisible Point, which has no limit and cannot be comprehended because of its purity and brightness, expanded *from without*, forming a brightness that served the Indivisible Point as a Veil, [yet the latter also] *could not be viewed in consequence of its immeasurable Light*. It too expanded *from without*, and this expansion was its Garment. Thus through a constant upheaving [motion] finally the world originated<sup>1</sup>

The Spiritual Substance sent forth by the Infinite Light is the *first* Sephira or *Shekinah*. Sephira, *exoterically*, contains all the other nine Sephiroth in her. *esoterically*, she contains but two, *Chokmah* or *Wisdom*, "a masculine, active potency whose divine name is Jah (יה)," and *BINAH*, or *Intelligence*, a feminine passive potency, represented by the divine name *Jehovah* (יהוה), which two potencies form, with Sephira the third, the Jewish Trinity or the Crown, *KETHER*. These two Sephiroth, called *Abba*, Father, and *Amona*, Mother, are the *Duad*, or the double-sexed *Logos*, from which issued the other seven Sephiroth. Thus, the first Jewish Triad, (Sephira, *Chokmah* and *Binah*), is the Hindu *Trimūrti*.<sup>2</sup> However veiled even in the *Zohar*, and still more in the exoteric Pantheon of India, every particular connected with one is reproduced in the other. The *Prajāpatis* are the Sephiroth. Ten with *Brahmā*, they dwindle to seven when the *Trimūrti*, or the Kabbalistic Triad, are separated from the rest. The seven Builders, (or Creators) become the seven *Prajāpatis*, or the seven Rishis, in the same order as the Sephiroth become the Creators, then the Patriarchs, etc. In both Secret Systems, the One Universal Essence is incomprehensible and *inactive* in its Absoluteness, and can be connected with the building of the Universe only in an indirect way. In both, the primeval Male-female, or Androgynous Principle and its ten and seven Emanations—*Brahmā-Virāj* and *Aditi-Vāch*, on the one hand; and the *Elohim-Jehovah*, or *Adam-Adami* (Adam Kadmon) and *Sephira-Eve*, on the other, with their *Prajāpatis* and Sephiroth—in their totality, represent primarily the Archetypal Man, the *Protologos*; and it is only in their secondary aspect that they become Cosmic powers, and astronomical or sidereal bodies. If *Aditi* is the Mother of the Gods, *Deva-Mātri*, *Eve* is the Mother of All Living, both are the *Shakti*, or Generative Power, in their female aspect, of the

<sup>1</sup> *Zohar*, Part I, fol. 20a.

<sup>2</sup> In the Indian Pantheon the double-sexed *Logos* is *Brahmā*, the Creator, whose seven "mind-born" Sons are the primeval Rishis—the "Builders."

“Heavenly Man,” and they are both compound Creators. Says a Gupta Vidyâ Sûtra :

In the beginning, a Ray, issuing from Paramârthika [the one and only True Existence], became manifested in Vyâvahârîka [Conventional Existence], which was used as a *Vâhan* to descend with into the Universal Mother, and to cause her to expand [swell, *brîh*].

And in the *Zohar* it is stated :

The Infinite Unity, formless and without similitude, after the Form of the Heavenly Man was created, used it. The Unknown Light<sup>1</sup> [Darkness] used the Heavenly Form (אֵלֶּהָ אֲדָמָה—*Adam laah*) as a Chariot (מֶרֶכְבָּה—*Mercabah*), through which to descend, and wished to be called by this Form, which is the sacred name Jehovah

As the *Zohar* again says :

In the beginning was the Will of the King, prior to any other existence. It [the Will] sketched the forms of all things that had been concealed but now came into view. And there went forth as a sealed secret, from the head of Ain Soph, a nebulous spark of matter, without shape or form. Life is drawn from below, and from above the source renews itself, the sea is always full and spreads its waters everywhere

Thus the Deity is compared to a shoreless sea, to Water which is “the fountain of life”<sup>2</sup> “The seventh palace, the fountain of life, is the first in the order from above.”<sup>3</sup> Hence the Kabbalistic tenet on the lips of the very Kabbalistic Solomon, who says in *Proverbs* “Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out its seven pillars”<sup>4</sup>

Whence, then, all this identity of ideas, if there were no primeval Universal Revelation? The few points so far brought out are like a few straws in a hayrick, in comparison to that which will be disclosed as the work proceeds. If we turn to the Chinese Cosmogony, the most hazy of all, even there the same idea is found. *Tsi-tsai*, the Self-Existent, is the unknown Darkness, the root of the Wu-liang-sheu (Boundless Age), Amitâbha, and Tien (Heaven), come later on. The “great Extreme” of Confucius gives the same idea, his “straws” notwithstanding. The latter are a source of great amusement to the missionaries, who laugh at every “heathen” religion, despise and hate that of their brother Christians of other denominations, and yet one and all accept their own *Genesis*, literally.

If we turn to the Chaldean we find in it *Anu*, the Concealed Deity, the One, whose name, moreover, shows it to be of Sanskrit origin, for *Anu* in

<sup>1</sup> Says Rabbi Simeon “Oh, companions, companions, man as an emanation was both man and woman, as well on the side of the ‘Father’ as on the side of the ‘Mother’ And this is the sense of the words ‘And Elohim spake, Let there be Light, and it was Light’, and this is the two-fold man” (*Auszuge aus dem Sohar*, 13, 15.) Light, then, in *Genesis*, stood for the Androgyne Ray, or “Heavenly Man”

<sup>2</sup> *Zohar*, III, p. 290

<sup>3</sup> *Op. cit.*, II, p. 261

<sup>4</sup> ch. ix, 1



Sanskrit means “atom,” *anīyāmsam-anīyāsām*, (smallest of the small), being a name of Parabrahman, in the Vedāntic philosophy, in which Parabrahman is described as smaller than the smallest atom, and greater than the greatest sphere or universe, *Anagranīyas and Mahatoruvat*.<sup>1</sup> In the first verses of the Akkadian *Genesis*, as found in the cuneiform texts on the Babylonian tiles or *Lateres Coctiles*, and as translated by George Smith, we find *Anu*, the Passive Deity, or Ain Soph; *Bel*, the Creator, the Spirit of God (*Sephira*), moving on the Face of the Waters, hence Water itself, and *Hea*, the Universal Soul, or wisdom of the three combined.

The first eight verses read as follows .

- 1 When above were not raised the heavens
- 2 and below on the earth a plant had not grown up ,
- 3 the abyss had not broken open their boundaries
- 4 The Chaos (or Water) Tiamat (the Sea) was the producing-mother of the whole of them [This is the Cosmical Aditi and Sephira]
- 5 Those waters at the beginning were ordained ; but
- 6 a tree had not grown, a flower had not unfolded
- 7 When the Gods had not sprung up, any one of them ,
- 8 a plant had not grown, and order did not exist <sup>2</sup>

This was the chaotic or ante-genetic period , the double Swan, and the Dark Swan which becomes white, when Light is created.<sup>3</sup>

The symbol chosen for the majestic ideal of the Universal Principle may perhaps seem little calculated to answer its sacred character. A goose, or even a swan, will, no doubt, be thought an unfit symbol to represent the grandeur of the Spirit. Nevertheless, it must have had some deep occult meaning, since it figures not only in every 'Cosmogony and World-religion, but was also chosen by the Crusaders, among the mediæval Christians, as the vehicle of the Holy Ghost, which was supposed to be leading the army to Palestine, to wrench the tomb of the Saviour from the hands of the Saracen. If we are to credit Professor Draper's statement, in his *Intellectual Development of Europe*, the Crusaders, led by Peter the Hermit, were preceded, at the head of the army, by the Holy Ghost, under the shape of a white gander in the company of a goat. Seb, the Egyptian God of Time, carries a goose on his head ; Jupiter assumes the form of a swan, and so also does Brahmā ; and the root of all this is that mystery of mysteries—the MUNDANE EGG One should learn the reason of a symbol before depreciating it. The dual element of Air and Water is that of the ibis, swan, goose and pelican, of crocodiles and frogs, lotus flowers and water lilies, etc. ; and the result is the choice of

<sup>1</sup> The greatest of the great

<sup>2</sup> *Chaldean Account of Genesis*, pp 62-3

<sup>3</sup> The Seven Swans that are believed to descend from Heaven on Lake Mānasarovara, are in the popular fancy the Seven Rishis of the Great Bear, who assume that form to visit the locality where the Vedas were written

the most unseemly symbols by the modern as much as by the ancient Mystics. Pan, the great God of Nature, was generally figured in company with aquatic birds, geese especially, and so were other Gods. If later on, with the gradual degeneration of religion, the Gods, to whom geese were sacred, became Priapic deities, it does not, therefore, follow that water-fowls were made sacred to Pan and other phallic deities, as some scoffers even of antiquity would have it,<sup>1</sup> but that the abstract and divine power of Procreative Nature had become grossly anthropomorphized. Nor does the swan of Leda show "priapic doings and her enjoyment thereof," as Mr. Hargrave Jennings chastely expresses it, for the myth is but another version of the same philosophical idea of Cosmogony. Swans are frequently found associated with Apollo, as they are the emblems of water and fire, and also of the sun-light, before the separation of the Elements.

Our modern symbologists might profit by some remarks made by a well-known writer, Mrs. Lydia Maria Child, who says .

From time immemorial an emblem has been worshipped in Hindustân as the type of creation, or the origin of life. Shiva, or the Mahâdeva, being not only the reproducer of human forms, but also the fructifying principle, the generative power that pervades the Universe. The maternal emblem is likewise a religious type. This reverence for the production of life introduced into the worship of Osiris the sexual emblems. Is it strange that they regarded with reverence the great mystery of human birth? Were they impure thus to regard it? Or are we impure that we do not so regard it? But *no clean and thoughtful mind* could so regard them. We have travelled far, and unclean have been the paths, since those old anchorites first spoke of God and the soul in the solemn depths of their first sanctuaries. Let us not smile at their mode of tracing the infinite and the incomprehensible Cause throughout all the mysteries of nature, lest by so doing we cast the shadow of our own grossness on their patriarchal simplicity.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Petronius, *Satyricon*, cxxxvi

<sup>2</sup> *Progress of Religious Ideas*, I, pp. 17 et seq.

## SECTION 6

### THE MUNDANE EGG

WHENCE this universal symbol? The Egg was incorporated as a sacred sign in the Cosmogony of every people on the earth, and was revered both on account of its form and of its inner mystery. From the earliest mental conceptions of man, it has been known as that which represented most successfully the origin and secret of Being. The gradual development of the imperceptible germ within the closed shell; the inward working, without any apparent outward interference of force, which from a latent *nothing* produced an active *something*, needing naught save heat, and which, having gradually evolved into a concrete, living creature, broke its shell, appearing to the outward senses of all as a self-generated and self-created being, all this must have been a standing miracle from the beginning.

The Secret Teaching explains the reason for this reverence by the Symbolism of the prehistoric races. In the beginnings, the "First Cause" had no name. Later it was pictured in the fancy of the thinkers as an ever invisible, mysterious Bird that dropped an Egg into Chaos, which Egg became the Universe. Hence Brahâmâ was called Kâlahamsa, the "Swan in [Space and] Time." Becoming the "Swan of Eternity," Brahâmâ, at the beginning of each Mahâmanvantara, lays a Golden Egg, which typifies the great Circle, or ○, itself a symbol for the Universe and its spherical bodies.

A second reason for the Egg having been chosen as the symbolical representation of the Universe, and of our Earth, was its form. It was a Circle and a Sphere, and the ovi-form shape of our Globe must have been known from the beginning of symbology, since it was so universally adopted. The first manifestation of the Kosmos in the form of an Egg was the most widely diffused belief of antiquity. As Bryant shows,<sup>1</sup> it was a symbol adopted among the Greeks, the Syrians, Persians, and Egyptians. In the Egyptian *Ritual*, Seb, the God of Time and of the Earth, is spoken of as having laid an

<sup>1</sup> *An Analysis of Antient Mythology*, Vol. III, p. 165.

Egg, or the Universe, an "Egg conceived at the hour of the great one of the Dual Force."<sup>1</sup>

Ra is shown like Brahmâ gestating in the Egg of the Universe. The Deceased is "resplendent in the Egg of the Land of Mysteries."<sup>2</sup> For, this is "the Egg to which is given Life among the Gods."<sup>3</sup> "It is the Egg of the great clucking Hen, the Egg of Seb, who issues from it like a hawk."<sup>4</sup>

Among the Greeks the Orphic Egg is described by Aristophanes, and was part of the Dionysiac and other Mysteries, during which the Mundane Egg was consecrated and its significance explained; Porphyry also shows it to be a representation of the world: "Ἐρμηνεύει δὲ τὸ ὥον τὸν κόσμον [The egg expresses (represents) the world]." Faber and Bryant have tried to show that the Egg typified the Ark of Noah—a wild belief, unless the latter is accepted as purely allegorical and symbolical. It can only have typified the Ark as a synonym of the Moon, the *Argha* which carries the universal seed of life; but had surely nothing to do with the Ark of the Bible. Anyhow, the belief that the Universe existed in the beginning in the shape of an Egg was general. And as Wilson says:

A similar account of the first aggregation of the elements in the form of an Egg is given in all the *Purānas*, with the usual epithet Haima or Hiranya, "golden," as it occurs in *Manu*, 1, 9.

Hiranya, however, means "resplendent," "shining," rather than "golden," as is proven by the great Indian scholar, the late Swāmi Dayānand Sarasvati, in his unpublished polemics with Professor Max Muller. As said in the *Vishnu Purāna*:

Intellect [Mahat] the [unmanifested] gross elements inclusive, formed an egg and the lord of the universe himself abided in it, in the character of Brahmâ. In that egg, O Brāhman, were the continents and seas and mountains, the planets and divisions of the universe, the gods, the demons and mankind.<sup>5</sup>

Both in Greece and in India the first visible male Being, who united in himself the nature of either sex, abode in the Egg and issued from it. This "First-born of the World" was Dionysos, with some Greeks, the God who sprang from the Mundane Egg, and from whom the mortals and immortals were derived. The God Ra is shown, in the *Book of the Dead*, beaming in his Egg [the Sun], and he starts off as soon as the God Shu [the Solar Energy] awakens and gives him the impulse.<sup>7</sup> "He is in the Solar Egg, the Egg to which is given Life among the Gods."<sup>8</sup> The Solar God exclaims: "I am the Creative Soul of the Celestial Abyss. None sees my Nest, none can break my Egg, I am the Lord!"<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Book of the Dead* ch. liv, 3

<sup>2</sup> *Op cit*, ch. xxii, 1

<sup>3</sup> *Op cit*, ch. xlii, 13

<sup>4</sup> *Ch liv*, 1, 2, ch. lxxvii, 1 <sup>5</sup> *Vishnu Purāna*, I, chap. ii, p. 39 (footnote) <sup>6</sup> *Op cit*, pp. 39-40

<sup>7</sup> *Book of the Dead* ch. xvii, 50, 51

<sup>8</sup> *Op cit*, ch. xlii, 13

<sup>9</sup> *Op cit*, ch. lxxx, 9

In view of this circular form, the "1" issuing from the  $\bigcirc$ , or the Egg, or the male from the female in the androgyne, it is strange to find a scholar saying, on the ground that the most ancient Indian MSS show no trace of it, that the ancient Áryans were ignorant of the decimal notation. The 10, being the sacred number of the Universe, was secret and esoteric, both as regards the unit and cipher, or zero, the circle. Moreover, Professor Max Muller tells that "the two words *cipher* and *zero*, which are but one, are sufficient to prove that our figures are borrowed from the Arabs."<sup>1</sup> Cipher is the Arabic *cifron*, and means empty," a translation of the Sanskrit *shūnyam*, or "nought," says the Professor.<sup>2</sup> The Arabs had their figures from Hindustân, and never claimed the discovery for themselves. As to Pythagoreans, we need but turn to the ancient manuscripts of Boethius' treatise, *De Arithmetica*, composed in the sixth century, to find among the Pythagorean numerals the "1" and the "0," as the first and final figures.<sup>3</sup> And Porphyry, who quotes from the Pythagorean Moderatus,<sup>4</sup> says that the numerals of Pythagoras were "hieroglyphical symbols, by means whereof he explained ideas concerning the nature of things," or the origin of the Universe.

Now, if, on the one hand, the most ancient Indian MSS show as yet no trace of decimal notation in them, and Max Muller states very clearly that until now he has found but nine letters, the initials of the Sanskrit numerals; on the other hand, we have records as ancient, to supply the wanted proof. We speak of the sculptures and the sacred imagery in the most ancient temples of the far East. Pythagoras derived his knowledge from India, and we find Professor Max Muller corroborating this statement, at least so far as to allow that the Neo-Pythagoreans were the first teachers of "ciphering," among the Greeks and Romans; that they "at Alexandria, or in Syria, became acquainted with the Indian figures, and adapted them to the Pythagorean Abacus (our figures)." This cautious admission implies that Pythagoras himself was acquainted with only *nine* figures. Thus we might reasonably answer that, although we possess no certain proof, *exoterically*, that the decimal notation was known to Pythagoras, who lived at the very close of the archaic ages,<sup>5</sup> yet we have sufficient evidence to show that the full numbers, as given by Boethius, were known to the Pythagoreans, even

<sup>1</sup> See Max Muller's "Our Figures"

<sup>2</sup> A Kabalist would be rather inclined to believe that as the Arabic *cifron* was taken from the Sanskrit *Shūnyam*, nought, so the Jewish Kabalistic Sephiroth (*Sephirim*) were taken from the word *cipher*, not in the sense of emptiness, but in that of creation by number and degrees of evolution. And the Sephiroth are 10 or  $\bigcirc$ .

<sup>3</sup> See King's *Gnostics and their Remains*, p. 370 (2nd ed.)

<sup>4</sup> *De Vita Pythag*

<sup>5</sup> The year of his birth is given as 608 B.C.

before Alexandria was built.<sup>1</sup> This evidence we find in Aristotle, who says that "some philosophers hold that ideas and numbers are of the same nature, and amount to TEN in all."<sup>2</sup> This, we believe, will be sufficient to show that the decimal notation was known among them at least as early as four centuries B C, for Aristotle does not seem to treat the question as an innovation of the Neo-Pythagoreans.

But we know more than this, we know that the decimal system must have been used by the mankind of the earliest archaic ages, since the whole astronomical and geometrical portion of the secret sacerdotal language was built upon the number 10, or the combination of the male and female principles, and since the "Pyramid of Cheops," so-called, is built upon measures of this decimal notation, or rather upon the digits and their combinations with the nought. Of this, however, sufficient has been said in *Isis Unveiled*, and it is useless to repeat it.

The symbolism of the Lunar and Solar Deities is so inextricably mixed up, that it is next to impossible to separate from each other such glyphs as the Egg, the Lotus, and the "Sacred" Animals. The *Ibis*, for instance, was held in the greatest veneration in Egypt. It was sacred to Isis, who is often represented with the head of that bird, and also sacred to Mercury or Thoth, who is said to have assumed its form while escaping from Typhon. There were two kinds of ibises in Egypt, Herodotus<sup>3</sup> tells us; one quite black, the other black and white. The former is credited with fighting and exterminating the winged serpents which came every spring from Arabia, and infested the country. The other was sacred to the Moon, because the latter planet is white and brilliant on her external side, dark and black on that side which she never turns to the Earth. Moreover, the ibis kills land serpents, and makes the most terrible havoc amongst the eggs of the crocodile, and thus saves Egypt from having the Nile over-infested by those horrible saurians. The bird is credited with doing this in the moonlight, and thus being helped by Isis, whose sidereal symbol is the Moon. But the more correct esoteric truth underlying these popular myths is that Hermes, as shown by Abenephius<sup>4</sup> watched over the Egyptians under the form of that bird, and taught them the Occult arts and sciences. This simply means that the *ibis religiosa* had, and has, "magical" properties in common with many other birds, the albatross pre-eminently, and the mythical white swan, the Swan of Eternity or Time, the KĀLAHANSA.

Were it otherwise, indeed, why should all the ancient peoples, who were no more fools than we are, have had such a superstitious dread of killing certain birds? In Egypt, he who killed an ibis, or the Golden Hawk, the

<sup>1</sup> That is to say 332 B C

<sup>2</sup> *Metaphysics*, vii, F

<sup>3</sup> *Euterpe*

<sup>4</sup> *De Cultu Egypt*

symbol of the Sun and Osiris, risked death, and could hardly escape it. The veneration of some nations for birds was such that Zoroaster, in his precepts, forbids their slaughter as a heinous crime. In our age, we laugh at every kind of divination. Yet why should so many generations have believed in divination by birds, and even in Zoomancy,<sup>1</sup> which is said by Suidas to have been imparted by Orpheus, who taught how, under certain conditions, to perceive in the yolk and white of an egg that which the bird born from it would have seen around it during its short life. This Occult art which, 3,000 years ago, demanded the greatest learning and the most abstruse mathematical calculations, has now fallen into the depths of degradation ; and to-day it is the old cooks and fortune-tellers who read the future for servant-girls in search of husbands, from the white of an egg in a glass.

Nevertheless, even Christians have to this day their sacred birds ; for instance the Dove, the symbol of the Holy Ghost. Nor have they neglected the sacred animals ; and the evangelical zoolatry, with its Bull, Eagle, Lion, and Angel—in reality the Cherub, or Seraph, the fiery-winged Serpent—is as much Pagan as that of the Egyptians or the Chaldeans. These four animals are, in reality, the symbols of the four Elements, and of the four *lower* Principles in man. Nevertheless, they correspond physically and materially to the four constellations that form, so to speak, the *suite* or *cortège* of the Solar God, and which, during the winter solstice, occupy the four cardinal points of the zodiacal circle. These four “ animals ” may be seen in many of the Roman Catholic *New Testaments* in which the *portraits* of the Evangelists are given. They are the animals of Ezekiel's Mercabah.

As truly stated by Ragon .

The ancient Hierophants have combined so cleverly the dogmas and symbols of their religious philosophies, that these symbols can be fully explained only by the combination and knowledge of *all* the keys

They can be only *approximately* interpreted, even if one discovers three out of these seven systems, *viz.*, the *anthropological*, the *psychic* and the *astronomical*. The two chief interpretations, the highest and the lowest, the spiritual and the physiological, were preserved in the greatest secrecy, until the latter fell into the dominion of the profane. Thus far, with regard only to the *pre-historic* Hierophants, with whom that which has now become purely—or impurely—phallic, was a science as profound and as mysterious as Biology and Physiology are now. This was their exclusive property, the fruit of their studies and discoveries. The other two were those which dealt with the Creative Gods, or Theogony, and with creative man ; that is to say, with the

<sup>1</sup> Oomancy in the 1893 edition

ideal and the practical Mysteries. These interpretations were so cleverly veiled and combined, that many were those who, while arriving at the discovery of one meaning, were baffled in understanding the significance of the others, and could never unriddle them sufficiently to commit dangerous indiscretions. The highest, the first and the fourth—Theogony in relation to Anthropogony—were almost impossible to fathom. We find the proofs of this in the Jewish “Holy Writ”

It is owing to the serpent being oviparous, that it became a symbol of Wisdom and an emblem of the Logoi, or the SELF-BORN. In the temple of Philæ, in Upper Egypt, an egg was artificially prepared of clay mixed with various incenses. This was hatched by a peculiar process, and a *cerastes* or horned viper was produced. The same was done in the Indian temples, in antiquity, in the case of the cobra. The creative God emerges from the Egg that issues from the mouth of Kneph, as a winged Serpent, for the Serpent is the symbol of the All-Wisdom. With the Hebrews the same Deity is glyphed by the Flying or “Fiery Serpents” of Moses in the wilderness, and with the Alexandrian Mystic he becomes the Orphio-Christos, the Logos of the Gnostics. The Protestants try to show that the allegory of the Brazen Serpent and of the “Fiery Serpents” has a direct reference to the mystery of the Christ and the Crucifixion, whereas, in truth, it has a far nearer relation to the *mystery of generation*, when dissociated from the Egg with the Central Germ, or the *Circle with its Central Point*. Protestant Theologians would have us believe their interpretation [only because the Brazen Serpent was lifted on a pole! Whereas it had rather a reference to the Egyptian Egg standing upright supported by the sacred *Tau*, since the Egg and the Serpent are inseparable in the old worship and symbology of Egypt, and since both the Brazen and Fiery Serpents were Seraphs, the burning “Fiery” Messengers, or the Serpent Gods, the *Nâgas* of India. Without the Egg it was a purely phallic symbol, but when associated therewith, it related to cosmic creation.] *The Brazen Serpent* had no such holy meaning as that, nor was it, in fact, glorified above “the fiery serpents,” for the bite of which it was only a natural remedy; the symbolical meaning of the word “Brazen” being the feminine principle, and that of “Fiery,” or “Gold,” the masculine principle.

[Brass was metal symbolizing the *nether world* that of the womb where life should be given. The word for serpent in Hebrew was *Nachash*, but this is also the term for brass

It is said in *Numbers* that the Jews complained of the wilderness where there was no water,<sup>1</sup> after which “the Lord sent fiery serpents” to bite them,

<sup>1</sup> Ch. xxi, 5 et seq



and then, to oblige Moses, he gave him as a remedy the *brazen serpent* on a pole for them to look at ; after which “ any man when he beheld the serpent of brass . . . lived ” (?). After that the “ Lord,” gathering the people together at the well of Beer, gave them water, and grateful Israel sang this song, “ Spring up, O well.”<sup>1</sup> When, after studying symbology, the Christian reader comes to understand the innermost meaning of these three symbols, *Water, Brazen, and serpent*, and a few more, in the sense given to them in the *Holy Bible*, he will hardly like to connect the sacred name of his Saviour with the “ Brazen Serpent ” incident. The Seraphim (שרפים) or Fiery Winged Serpents, are no doubt connected with, and inseparable from, the idea of the “ Serpent of Eternity—God,” as explained in Kenealy’s *Apocalypse*; but the word Cherub also meant Serpent, in one sense, though its direct meaning is different, for the Cherubim<sup>2</sup> and the Persian Winged Griffins (Γρῦπες), the guardians of the golden mountain, are the same, and the compound name of the former shows their character, as it is formed of *kr* (כר), a circle, and *aub* or *ob* (אוב), a serpent, and therefore means a “ serpent in a circle ” And this settles the phallic character of the Brazen Serpent, and justifies Hezekiah for breaking it.<sup>3</sup> *Verbum satis sapienti !]*

In the *Book of the Dead*, as just shown, reference is often made to the Egg. Ra, the mighty one, remains in his Egg, during the struggle between the “ children of the rebellion,” and Shu, the Solar Energy and the Dragon of Darkness. The deceased is resplendent in his Egg when he crosses to the land of mystery. He is the Egg of Seb. The Egg was the symbol of Life in *immortality* and eternity ; and also the glyph of the generative matrix , whereas the Tau, which was associated with it, was only the symbol of life and birth in *generation*. The Mundane Egg was placed in *Khoom*, the “ Water of Space,” or the feminine *abstract* Principle ; *Khoom* becoming, with the *fall* of mankind into generation and phallicism, Ammon the *creative* God. When Ptah, the “ Fiery God,” carries the Mundane Egg in his hand, then the symbolism becomes quite terrestrial and concrete in its significance. In conjunction with the Hawk, the symbol of Osiris-Sun, the symbol is dual, and relates to both lives—the mortal and the immortal. The engraving of a papyrus in Kircher’s *Œdipus Egyptiacus*,<sup>4</sup> shows an egg floating above the mummy. This is the symbol of hope and the promise of a *second birth* for the *Osirified* Dead ; his Soul, after due purification in the Amenti, will gestate in this Egg of Immortality, to be reborn therefrom into a new life on earth. For this Egg, in the Esoteric Doctrine, is *Devachan*, the abode of Bliss ; the

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, 16-7<sup>2</sup> Kerubim<sup>3</sup> *II Kings*, xviii, 4.<sup>4</sup> Vol III, p 124

winged scarabæus also being another symbol of it. The "winged globe" is but another form of the Egg, and has the same significance as the scarabæus, the Khopiroo—from the Root *khoproo*, to become, to be reborn—which relates to the rebirth of man, as well as to his spiritual regeneration.

In the *Theogony* of Mochus, we find Æther first, and then Air, the two principles from which Ulom, the *intelligible* (Νοητός) Deity, the visible Universe of Matter, is born, out of the Mundane Egg.<sup>1</sup>

In the *Orphic Hymns*, Eros-Phanes evolves from the divine Egg, which the *Æthereal Winds* impregnate, Wind being the "Spirit of God," or rather the "Spirit of the Unknown Darkness"—the Divine Idea of Plato—which is said to move in Æther.<sup>2</sup> In the Hindu *Katha-Upanishad*, Purusha, the Divine Spirit, already stands before the Original Matter, "from whose union springs the great soul of the world," Mahâ-Âtmâ, Brahmâ, the Spirit of Life,<sup>3</sup> etc. [The latter appellations are all identical with Anima Mundi, or the "Universal Soul," the Astral Light of the Kabalist and the Occultist, or the "Egg of Darkness."] Besides this there are many charming allegories on this subject, scattered through the Sacred Books of the Brâhmans. In one place, it is the female creator who is first a germ, then a drop of heavenly dew, a pearl, and then an egg. In such cases, of which there are too many to enumerate separately, the Egg gives birth to the four Elements within the fifth, Æther, and is covered with seven coverings, which become later on the seven upper and the seven lower worlds. Breaking in two, the shell becomes the Heaven, and the contents the Earth, the white forming the terrestrial Waters. Then, again, it is Vishnu who emerges from within the Egg, with a Lotus in his hand. Vinatâ, a daughter of Daksha and wife of Kashyapa, "the Self-born, sprung from Time," one of the seven "creators" of our World, brought forth an Egg from which was born Garuda, the vehicle of Vishnu, the latter allegory having a relation to our Earth only, as Garuda is the Great Cycle.

The Egg was sacred to Isis, and therefore the priests of Egypt never ate eggs.

[Isis is almost always represented holding a Lotus in one hand, and in the other a Circle and a Cross (*crux ansata*).

Diodorus Siculus states that Osiris was born from an Egg, like Brahmâ. From Leda's Egg, Apollo and Latona were born, and also Castor and Pollux, the bright Gemini. And though the Buddhists do not attribute the same origin to their Founder, yet, no more than the ancient Egyptians or the modern Brâhmans, do they eat eggs, lest they should destroy the germ of life latent in them, and thereby commit sin. The Chinese believe that their First Man

<sup>1</sup> Movers, *Phoinizer*, 282

<sup>2</sup> See *Isis Unveiled*, I, p. 56

<sup>3</sup> Weber, *Akad-Vorles*, p. 213, et seq

was born from an Egg, which *Tien* dropped down from Heaven to Earth into the Waters<sup>1</sup> This symbol is still regarded by some as representing the Idea of the origin of life, which is a scientific truth, though the human ovum is invisible to the naked eye Therefore we see respect shown to it from the remotest antiquity, by the Greeks, Phœnicians, Romans, the Japanese, and the Siamese, the North and South American tribes, and even the savages of the remotest islands.

With the Egyptians, the concealed god was Ammon [or *Mon*, the "Hidden," the Supreme Spirit.] All their Gods were dual—the scientific Reality for the sanctuary, its double, the fabulous and mythical Entity, for the masses For instance, as observed in the Section "Chaos: Theos. Kosmos," the Elder Horus was the *Idea* of the World remaining in the Demiurgic Mind, "born in Darkness before the Creation of the World", the second Horus was the same *Idea* going forth from the Logos, becoming clothed with matter and assuming an actual existence<sup>2</sup> [Horus, the "Elder," or *Haroiri*, is an ancient aspect of the Solar God, contemporary with Ra and Shu; *Haroiri* is often mistaken for Hor (Horsusi), Son of Osiris and Isis The Egyptians very often represented the rising Sun under the form of Hor the Elder, rising from a full-blown Lotus, the Universe, when the solar disk is always found on the hawk-head of that God. *Haroiri* is *Khnoom*.] The same with *Khnoom* and Ammon, both are represented as ram-headed, and both are often confused, though their functions are different. *Khnoom* is the "modeller of men," fashioning men and things out of the Mundane Egg, on a potter's wheel; Ammon-Ra, the Generator, is the secondary aspect of the Concealed Deity *Khnoom* was adored at Elephanta and Philæ,<sup>3</sup> Ammon at Thebes But it is Emept, the One, Supreme, *Planetary* Principle, who blows the Egg out of his mouth, and who is therefore, *Brahmâ* The shadow of the Deity, Kosmic and Universal, of that which broods over and permeates the Egg, with its vivifying Spirit, until the Germ contained in it is ripe, was the *mystery* God whose name was unpronounceable It is Ptah, however, "he who opens," the opener of Life and Death,<sup>4</sup> who proceeds from the Egg of the World to begin his dual work.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Chinese seem to have thus anticipated Sir William Thomson's theory that the first living germ had dropped to the earth from some passing comet Query Why should this be called *scientific* and the Chinese idea a superstitious, foolish theory?

<sup>2</sup> Compare Movers, *Phoinizer*, 268

<sup>3</sup> His triadic Goddesses are Sati and Anouki

<sup>4</sup> Ptah was originally the god of Death, of *destruction*, like Shiva He is a solar God only by virtue of the sun's fire killing as well as vivifying He was the national God of Memphis, the radiant and "fair-faced" God (See Saqqarah Bronzes, Saitic Epoch)

<sup>5</sup> *Book of Numbers*

According to the Greeks, the phantom form of the Chemis (*Chemi*, ancient Egypt) which floats on the ethereal waves of the Empyrean Sphere, was called into being by Horus-Apollo, the Sun-God, who caused it to evolve out of the Mundane Egg.

[The *Brahmânda Purâna* contains fully the mystery about Brahmâ's Golden Egg; and this is why, perhaps, it is inaccessible to the Orientalists, who say that this *Purâna*, like the *Skanda*, is "no longer procurable in a collective body," but "is represented by a variety of Khandas and Mâhâtmyas professing to be derived from it." The *Brahmânda Purâna* is described as "that which has declared, in 12,200 verses, the magnificence of the egg of Brahmâ, in which an account of the future Kalpas is contained, . . . and was revealed by Brahmâ."<sup>1</sup> Quite so, and much more, perchance.]

In the Scandinavian Cosmogony, placed by Professor Max Muller, in point of time, as "far anterior to the *Vedas*," in the poem of Woluspa, (the Song of the Prophetess), the Mundane Egg is again discovered in the Phantom-Germ of the Universe, which is represented as lying in the *Ginnungagap*, the Cup of Illusion, *Mâyâ*, the boundless and void Abyss. In this World's Matrix, formerly a region of night and desolation, *Nifl-heim*, (the Mist-Place, the *nebular*, as it is called now, in the Astral Light), dropped a Ray of Cold Light which overflowed this cup and froze in it. Then the *Invisible* blew a scorching Wind which dissolved the frozen Waters and cleared the mist. These Waters (Chaos), called the streams of *Elvagar*, distilling in vivifying drops, fell down and created the Earth and giant *Ymir*, who had only the "semblance of man" (the Heavenly Man), and the Cow, *Audumla* (the "Mother," Astral Light or Cosmic Soul), from whose udder flowed four streams of milk—the four cardinal points; the four heads of the four rivers of Eden, etc.—which "four" allegorically are symbolized by the Cube in all its various and mystical meanings.

The Christians—especially the Greek and Latin Churches—have fully adopted the symbol, and see in it a commemoration of life eternal, of salvation and of resurrection. This is found in, and corroborated by, the time-honoured custom of exchanging "Easter Eggs." From the *anguinum*, the "Egg" of the "pagan" Druid, whose name alone made Rome tremble with fear, to the red Easter Egg of the Slavonian peasant, a cycle has passed. And yet, whether in civilized Europe, or among the abject savages of Central America, we find the same archaic, primitive thought, if we will only search for it, and do not—in the haughtiness of our fancied mental and physical superiority—disfigure the original idea of the symbol.

<sup>1</sup> *Vishnu Purâna*, Wilson, Vol. I, Pref pp. lxxxiv-v

## SECTION 7

### THE DAYS AND NIGHTS OF BRAHMÂ

THIS is the name given to the Periods called MANVANTARA (MANU-ANTARA, or between the Manus) and PRALAYA, or Dissolution ; one referring to the active periods of the Universe ; the other to its times of relative and complete Rest, whether they occur at the end of a Day or an " Age " (a life), of Brahmâ. These periods, which follow each other in regular succession, are also called small and great Kalpas, the minor and the Mahâ Kalpas, though, properly speaking, the Mahâ Kalpa is never a " day," but a whole life or age of Brahmâ, for it is said in the *Brahma Vaivarta* : " Chronologers compute a Kalpa by the Life of Brahmâ. Minor Kalpas, as Samvarta and the rest, are numerous." In sober truth they are infinite, for they have never had a commencement, or, in other words, there never was a *first* Kalpa, nor will there ever be a *last*, in Eternity.

One *Parârdha*, or half of the existence of Brahmâ, in the ordinary acceptance of this measure of time, has already expired in the present Mahâ Kalpa ; the last Kalpa was the Padma, or that of the Golden Lotus, the present one is the Varâha,<sup>1</sup> the " Boar " Incarnation, or Avatâra.

One thing is to be especially noted by the scholar who studies the Hindu religion from the *Puranâs*. He must not take the statements found therein literally, and in one sense only ; and those especially which concern

<sup>1</sup> There is a curious piece of information in the Buddhist esoteric traditions. The exoteric or allegorical biography of Gautama Buddha shows this great Sage dying of an indigestion of *pork and rice*, a very prosaic end, indeed, with little of the solemn element in it. This is explained as an allegorical reference to his having been born in the " Boar " or Varâha Kalpa, when Vishnu assumed the form of that animal to raise the Earth out of the " Waters of Space ". Now as the Brâhmanas descend direct from Brahmâ and are, so to speak, identified with him, and as they are at the same time the mortal enemies of Buddha and Buddhism, we have this curious allegorical hint and combination. Brâhmanism (of the Boar or Varâha Kalpa) has slaughtered the religion of Buddha in India, swept it from its face, therefore Buddha, who is identified with his philosophy, is said to have died from the effects of eating of the flesh of a wild hog. The very idea of one who established the most rigorous vegetarianism and respect for animal life—even to refusing to eat eggs as being *vehicles of latent future life*—dying of an indigestion of meat, is absurdly contradictory and has puzzled more than one Orientalist. But this explanation, unveiling the allegory, explains all the rest. The Varâha, however, is no simple Boar, but seems to have meant at first some antediluvian lacustrine animal " delighting to sport in water " (*Vâyua Purâna*).

the Manvantaras, or Kalpas, have to be understood in their several references. Thus these Periods relate, in the same language, to both the great and the small Periods, to Mahâ Kalpas and to minor Cycles. The Matsya, or Fish Avatâra, happened before the Varâha or Boar Avatâra, the allegories, therefore, must relate to both the Padma and the present Manvantara, and also to the minor Cycles which have occurred since the reappearance of our Chain of Worlds and the Earth. And, as the Matsya Avatâra of Vishnu and Vaivasvata's Deluge are correctly connected with an event that happened on our Earth during this Round, it is evident that, while it may relate to pre-cosmic events, (in the sense of *our* Kosmos, or Solar System), it has reference, in our case, to a distant geological period. Not even Esoteric Philosophy can claim to know, except by analogical inference, that which took place before the reappearance of our Solar System, and previous to the last Mahâ Pralaya. But it teaches distinctly, that after the first geological disturbance of the Earth's axis, which ended in the sweeping down to the bottom of the seas of the whole second Continent, with its primeval races—of which successive Continents, or "Earths," Atlantis was the fourth—there came another disturbance owing to the axis again resuming its previous degree of inclination as rapidly as it had changed it, when the Earth was indeed *raised once more* out of the Waters—as above, so below, and *vice versa*. There were "Gods" on Earth in those days, Gods, and not men, as we know them now, says the tradition. As will be shown in Volume 3, the computation of periods, in exoteric Hinduism, refers to both the great cosmic and the small terrestrial events and cataclysms, and the same may be shown in respect to names. For instance, the name Yudhishtira—the First king of the Sacae or Shakas, who opens the Kali Yuga Era, which has to last 432,000 years "an actual king who lived 3,102 years B.C.—applies name and all to the great Deluge, at the time of the first sinking of Atlantis. He is the "Yudhishtira," born on the mountain of the hundred peaks, at the extremity of the world, *beyond which nobody can go*," and "immediately after the flood."<sup>2</sup> We know of no "Flood" 3,102 years B.C., not even that of Noah, for, agreeably with Judæo-Christian chronology, it took place 2,349 years B.C.

This relates to an esoteric division of time and a mystery explained elsewhere, and may therefore be left aside for the present. Suffice it to remark, at this juncture, that all the efforts of imagination of the Wilfords, Bentleys,

<sup>1</sup> According to Colonel Wilford, the conclusion of the "Great War" took place in 1370 B.C., (*Asiatic Researches*, ix, pp 88-9), according to Bentley, 575 B.C. <sup>11</sup> We may yet hope, before the end of this century, [nineteenth] to see the Mahâbhâratan epic proclaimed identical with the wars of the great Napoleon

<sup>2</sup> See *Royal Asiatic Soc.* ix, p 364

and other would-be Œdipuses of esoteric Hindu Chronology, have sadly failed. No computation of either the Four Ages, or the Manvantaras, has ever yet been unriddled by our very learned Orientalists, who have therefore cut the Gordian Knot by proclaiming the whole "a figment of the Brâhmanical brain." So be it, and may the great scholars rest in peace ! This "figment" is given at the end of the Commentaries on STANZA 2 of the Anthropogenesis, in Volume 3, with Esoteric additions.

Let us see, however, what were the three kinds of *Pralayas*, and what is the popular belief about them. For once it agrees with Esotericism

Of the *Pralaya*, before which fourteen Manvantaras elapse, having over them as many presiding Manus, and at whose close occurs the "incidental," or Brahmâ's Dissolution, it is said in *Vishnu Purâna*, in condensed paraphrase

At the end of a thousand periods of four ages, which complete a day of Brahmâ, the earth is, for the most part, exhausted. The eternal (Avyaya) Vishnu then assumes the character of Rudra, the destroyer (Shiva), and descends to reunite all (his) creatures to himself. He enters into the seven rays of the sun, drinks up all the waters of the (Globe), and causes all moisture to evaporate; thus drying up the whole earth. The seas, and rivers, the mountain torrents, and springs are, all, exhaled. Thus fed with abundant moisture, the seven solar rays dilate to seven suns, and set the three worlds on fire. The destroyer of all things, Hari, who is the flame of time (Kâlâgni), [finally consumes the Earth]. Then Rudra, becoming Janârdana, breathes clouds and rain<sup>1</sup>

There are many kinds of *Pralaya*, but three chief periods are specially mentioned in old Hindu books. The first of these, as Wilson shows, is called NAIMITTIKA,<sup>2</sup> "occasional" or "incidental," caused by the intervals of "Brahmâ's Days"; it is the destruction of creatures, of all that lives and has a form, but not of the substance, which remains *in statu quo* till the new DAWN after that Night. The second is called PRÂKRITIKA, and occurs at the end of the Age or Life of Brahmâ, when everything that exists is resolved into the Primal Element, to be remodelled at the end of that longer Night. The third, Atyantika, does not concern the Worlds, or the Universe, but only the individualities of some people. It is thus the individual *Pralaya*, or NIRVÂNA, after having reached which, there is no more future existence possible, no rebirth till after the Mahâ *Pralaya*. The latter Night—lasting as it does 311,040,000,000,000 years, with the possibility also of being almost doubled in the case of the lucky *Jivanmukta* who reaches Nirvâna at an early period of a Manvantara—is long enough to be regarded as eternal, if not endless. The *Bhâgavata*

<sup>1</sup> See Vol. v, pp. 190-3

<sup>2</sup> In the Vedânta and Nyâya, Nimitta, from which Naimittika, is rendered as the Efficient Cause, when antithesized with Upâdâna, the Physical or Material Cause. In the Sâṅkhya, Pradhâna is a cause inferior to Brahmâ, or rather Brahmâ being himself a cause, is superior to Pradhâna. Hence "Incidental" is a wrong translation, and ought to be rendered, as shown by some scholars, "Ideal"

*Purâna*<sup>1</sup> speaks of a fourth kind of Pralaya, the *Nitya*, or constant dissolution, and explains it as the change which takes place imperceptibly in everything in this Universe from the globe down to the atom, without cessation. It is growth and decay—life and death.

When the Mahâ Pralaya arrives, the inhabitants of Svar-loka, (the upper sphere) disturbed by the conflagration, seek refuge “with the Pitris, their progenitors, the Manus, the Seven Rishis, the various orders of celestial Spirits and the Gods, in Mahar-loka.” When the latter is reached also, the whole of the above enumerated beings migrate in their turn from Mahar-loka, and repair to Jana-loka, “in their subtle forms, destined to become re-embodied, in similar capacities as their former, when the world is renewed at the beginning of the succeeding Kalpa”<sup>2</sup>

Clouds, mighty in size, and loud in thunder, fill up all space [Nabhas-tala] Showering down torrents of water, these clouds quench the dreadful fires and then they rain uninterruptedly for a hundred [divine] years, and deluge the whole world [Solar System] Pouring down, in drops as large as dice, these rains overspread the earth, and fill the middle region (Bhuva-loka) and inundate heaven. The world is now enveloped in darkness, and all things, animate or inanimate, having perished, the clouds continue to pour down their waters, [and the night of Brahmâ reigns supreme over the scene of desolation<sup>3</sup>]

This is what we call in the Esoteric Doctrine a Solar Pralaya. When the Waters have reached the region of the Seven Rishis, and the world or Solar System, is one Ocean, they stop. The breath of Vishnu becomes a strong wind, which blows for another hundred (divine) Years until all clouds are dispersed. The wind is then reabsorbed. and THAT—

Of whom all things are made, the lord by whom all things exist, he who is inconceivable, without beginning, beginning of the universe, reposes, sleeping upon Shesha [the Serpent of Infinity] in the midst of the deep. The creator [(?) Âdikrit] Hari, sleeps (upon the ocean) [of Space] in the form of Brahmâ—glorified by Sanaka<sup>4</sup> and the Saints (Siddhas) of Jana-loka, and contemplated by the holy inhabitants of Brahma-loka, anxious for final liberation—involved in mystic slumber, the celestial personification of his own illusions. This is the dissolution [(?) pratisanchara] termed incidental because Hari is its incidental [Ideal] Cause<sup>5</sup>. When the universal spirit wakes, the world revives, when he closes his eyes, all things fall upon the bed of mystic slumber. In like manner as a thousand great ages constitute a day of Brahmâ [in the original it is Padmayoni, the same as Abjayoni, “Lotus-born,” not Brahmâ], so his night consists of the same period. Awaking at the end of his night, the unborn creates the universe anew<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> XII, iv, p. 35 [The *Bhâgavata Purâna*, by Purnendu Narâyan Sinha, Skanda XII, ch. iv, gives the four Pralayas as *Nitya*, *Nimitika*, *Prâkritika*, *Atyantika*]

<sup>2</sup> *Vâyû Purâna* <sup>3</sup> *Vishnu Purâna*, Wilson, Vol. V, p. 194

<sup>4</sup> The chief *Kumâra* or Virgin-God, a *Dhyân Chohan* who refuses to create. A prototype of St. Michael, who also refuses to do so.

<sup>5</sup> See concluding lines in Section, “Chaos Theos Kosmos”

<sup>6</sup> Vol. v pp. 195-6



This is "Incidental" Pralaya; what is the Elemental [Prākritika] Dissolution? Parāshara describes it to Maitreya as follows:

When, by dearth and fire all the worlds and Pātālas [Hells] are withered up,<sup>1</sup> the progress of elemental dissolution is begun. Then, first, the waters swallow up the property of earth (which is the rudiment of smell), and earth deprived of its property proceeds to destruction and becomes one with water. When the universe is, thus, pervaded by the waves of the watery element, its rudimental flavour is licked up by the element of fire, and the waters themselves are destroyed, and become one with fire, and the universe is, therefore, entirely filled with [ethereal] flame, which gradually overspreads the whole of the world. While space is [one] flame, the element of wind seizes upon the rudimental property, or form, which is the cause of light, and that being withdrawn (pralina), all becomes of the nature of air. The rudiment of form being destroyed, and fire [(?) Vibhāvasu] deprived of its rudiment, air extinguishes fire and spreads over space, which is deprived of light, when fire merges into air. Air, then, accompanied by Sound, which is the source of ether, extends everywhere throughout the ten regions until ether seizes upon contact [(?) Sparsha, Cohesion—Touch?], its rudimental property, by the loss of which, air is destroyed, and ether [(?) Kha] remains unmodified, devoid of form, flavour, touch (sparsha), and smell, it exists [un]embodied [mūrtimat] and vast, and pervades the whole of space. Ether [Ākāsha], whose characteristic property and rudiment is sound [the "Word"] exists alone, occupying all the vacuity of space [or rather, occupying the whole containment of Space]. Then the (Origin) [Noumenon?] of the elements (Bhūtādi) devours Sound [the collective Demiurgos], [and the hosts of Dhyān Chohans] and all the [existing] Elements<sup>2</sup> are, at once, merged into their original. This primary element is consciousness, combined with the property of darkness [Tāmasa—Spiritual Darkness rather], and is, itself, swallowed up [disintegrated] by Mahat [the Universal Intellect], whose characteristic property is intelligence [Buddhi], and earth and Mahat are the inner and outer boundaries of the universe. In this manner [in the Beginning], were the seven forms of nature [Prakriti] reckoned from Mahat to earth, so these seven successively re-enter into each other.<sup>3</sup>

The egg of Brahmā (sarva-mandala) is dissolved in the waters that surround it, with its seven zones (dvīpas), seven oceans, seven regions, and their mountains. The investiture of water is drunk up by fire, the (stratum of) fire is absorbed by (that of) air, air blends itself with ether [Ākāsha], the primary element [Bhūtādi, the origin, or rather the cause, of the primary element] devours the ether, and is (itself) taken up by intellect [Mahat, the Great, the Universal Mind], which, along with all these, is seized upon by nature [Prakriti] [and disappears]. This Prakriti is, essentially, the same, whether discrete or indiscrete, only that which is discrete is, finally, lost or absorbed in the indiscrete Spirit [Pums] also, which is one, pure, imperishable, eternal,

<sup>1</sup> This prospect would hardly suit Christian theology, which prefers an eternal, everlasting hell for its followers.

<sup>2</sup> The term "Elements" must be here understood to mean not only the visible and physical elements, but also that which St Paul calls Elements—the spiritual, intelligent Potencies—Angels and Demons in their manvantaric forms.

<sup>3</sup> When this description is correctly understood by Orientalists, in its esoteric significance, then it will be found that this Cosmic correlation of World-Elements may explain the correlation of physical forces better than those now known. At any rate, Theosophists will perceive that Prakriti has seven forms, or principles, "reckoned from Mahat to Earth." The "Waters" mean here the mystic "Mother", the Womb of Abstract Nature, in which the Manifested Universe is conceived. The seven "zones" have reference to the Seven Divisions of that Universe, or the Noumena of the Forces that bring it into being. It is all allegorical.

all-pervading, is a portion of that supreme spirit which is all things That spirit [sarvesha] which is other than (embodied) spirit, in which there are no attributes of name, species [nâman and jâti, or rūpa, hence body rather than species], or the like [remains] as the (sole) existence [Sattâ] Nature and spirit [Purusha] both resolve [finally] into supreme spirit<sup>1</sup>

This is the final PRALAYA<sup>2</sup>—the Death of Kosmos; after which its Spirit rests in Nirvâna, or in THAT for which there is neither Day nor Night. All the other Pralayas are periodical, and follow the Manvantaras in regular succession, as the night follows the day of every human creature, animal and plant. The cycle of creation of the lives of Kosmos is run down, the energy of the manifested “Word” having its growth, culmination, and decrease, as have all things temporary, however long their duration. The Creative Force is Eternal as Noumenon, as a phenomenal manifestation, in its aspects, it has a *beginning* and must, therefore, have an end. During that interval, it has its periods of activity and its periods of rest. And these are the Days and the Nights of Brahmâ. But Brahman, the Noumenon, never rests, as IT never changes, but ever IS, though IT cannot be said to be anywhere. . . .

The Jewish Kabalists felt the necessity of this *immutability* in an eternal, infinite Deity, and therefore applied the same thought to the anthropomorphic God. The idea is poetical, and very appropriate in its application. In the *Zohar* we read as follows :

As Moses was keeping a vigil on Mount Sinai, in company with the Deity, who was concealed from his sight by a cloud, he felt a great fear overcome him, and suddenly asked “Lord, where art thou . . . sleepest thou, O Lord ? . . .” And the Spirit answered him, “I never sleep were I to fall asleep for a moment *BEFORE MY TIME*, all the creation would crumble into dissolution in one instant ”

“ *Before my time* ” is very suggestive. It shows the God of Moses to be only a temporary substitute, like Brahmâ, the male, a substitute and an aspect of THAT which is immutable, and which, therefore, can take no part in the “ days,” or in the “ nights,” nor have any concern whatever with reaction or dissolution


While the Eastern Occultists have seven modes of interpretation, the Jews have only four, namely, the real-mystical, the allegorical, the moral, and the literal or *Pashut*. The latter is the key of the exoteric Churches and not worth discussion. Here are several sentences, which, read in the first, or mystical key, show the identity of the foundations of construction in every

<sup>1</sup> *Vishnu Purâna*, Vol. V, pp 196-200. Wilson’s mistakes being corrected and the original terms put in brackets

<sup>2</sup> As it is the Mahâ, the Great, or so-called FINAL, Pralaya which is here described, every thing is reabsorbed into its original ONE Element, the “ Gods themselves, Brahmâ and the rest ” being said to die and disappear during that long NIGHT

Scripture. They are given in Isaac Myer's excellent book on the Kabalistic works, which he seems to have well studied. I quote *verbatim*.

"*B'raisheeth barah elohim ath hashama' yem v'ath haa retz, i e., 'In the beginning the God(s) created the heavens and the earth' (the meaning of which is,) the six (Sephiroth of Construction),<sup>1</sup> over which B'raiseeth stands, all belong Below. It created six, (and) on these stand (exist) all Things. And those depend upon the seven forms of the Cranium up to the Dignity of all Dignities. And the second 'Earth' does not come into calculation, therefore it has been said 'And from it (that Earth) which underwent the curse, came it forth'. 'It (the Earth) was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the Abyss, and the spirit of Elohim was breathing (*me'racha'pheth*, i e., hovering, brooding over, moving ) over the waters'. Thirteen depend on thirteen (forms) of the most worthy Dignity. Six thousand years hang (are referred to) in the first six words. The seventh (thousand, the millennium), above it (the cursed Earth), is that which is strong by itself. And it was rendered entirely desolate during twelve hours (one day ) In the Thirteenth, It (the Deity) shall restore them and everything shall be renewed as before, and all those six shall continue."<sup>2</sup>*

The 'Sephiroth of Construction' are the six Dhyân Chohans, or Manus, or Prajâpatis, synthesized by the seventh "B'raisheeth," the First Emanation, or Logos, and who are called, therefore, the Builders of the Lower or physical Universe, all belonging Below. The six  whose essence is of the Seventh, are the *Upâdhi*, the base or Fundamental Stone, on which the objective Universe is built, the *noumena* of all things. Hence they are, at the same time, the Forces of Nature, the Seven Angels of the Presence, the sixth and seventh Principles in Man, the spirito-psycho-physical Spheres of the Septenary Chain, the Root Races, etc. They all "depend upon the Seven forms of the Cranium" up to the highest. The "second 'Earth' does not come into calculation," because it is *no Earth*, but the Chaos, or Abyss of Space, in which rested the paradigmatic, or model Universe, in the ideation of the OVER-SOUL, brooding over it. The term "Curse" is here very misleading, for it means simply *Doom* or *destiny*, or *that fatality which sent it forth* into the objective state. This is shown by that "Earth," under the "Curse," being described as "without form and void," in whose abysmal depths the "Breath" of the Elohim, (or collective Logoi) produced, or so to say photographed, the first Divine IDEATION of the things to be. This process is repeated after every Pralaya before the beginnings of a new Manvantara, or period of sentient individual being. "Thirteen depend on thirteen forms," refers to the thirteen Periods, personified by the thirteen Manus, with Svayambhuva, the fourteenth—13, instead of 14, being an additional veil—those fourteen Manus who reign within the term of a Mahâ Yuga,

<sup>1</sup> The "Builders" of the STANZAS

<sup>2</sup> From the *Siphra Dzenioutha*, ch. 1, S. 16, et seq., as quoted in Myer's *Qabbalah*, pp. 232-3.

a "Day" of Brahmâ. These (thirteen-fourteen) of the objective Universe depend on the thirteen (fourteen) *paradigmatic, ideal* forms. The meaning of the "six thousand Years" which "hang in the first six words," has again to be sought in the Indian Wisdom. They refer to the primordial six (seven) "Kings of Edom," who typify the worlds, or spheres, of our Chain, during the First Round, as well as the primordial men of this Round. They are the septenary *pre-Adamic* First Root-Race, or they who existed before the Third, *Separated* Race. As they were *shadows*, and senseless, for they had not yet eaten of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, they could not see the Parzuphim, or "Face could not see Face", that is to say, primeval men were "unconscious." "Therefore, the primordial (seven) Kings died," i.e., were destroyed.<sup>1</sup> Now, who are they? They are the Kings who are the "Seven Rishis, certain (secondary) divinities, Indra [Shakra], Manu, and the kings his sons, [who] are created and perish at one period," as *Vishnu Purâna* tells us.<sup>2</sup> For the seventh ("thousand,"), which is *not the millennium of exoteric Christianity, but that of Anthropogenesis*, represents both the "Seventh period of creation," that of physical man, according to *Vishnu Purâna*, and the seventh Principle, both macrocosmic and microcosmic, and also the *pralaya* after the seventh Period, the "Night," which has the same duration as the "Day," of Brahmâ. "It was rendered entirely desolate during twelve hours." It is in the Thirteenth (twice six and the Synthesis) that everything shall be restored, and the "six shall continue."

Thus, the author of the *Qabbalah* remarks quite truly that

Long before his [Ibn Gebirol's] time, many centuries before the Christian era, there was in Central Asia, a "Wisdom Religion," fragments of which subsequently existed among the learned men of the archaic Egyptians, the ancient Chinese, Hindus, etc. [And that] the *Qabbalah* most likely, originally came from Âryan sources through Central Asia, Persia, India and Mesopotamia, for from Ur and Haran came Abraham and many others, into Palestine.<sup>3</sup>

Such was also the firm conviction of C. W. King, the author of *The Gnostics and Their Remains*.

Vâmadeva Mudaliyar describes the coming "night" most poetically. Though it is given in *Isis Unveiled*, it is worthy of repetition.

Strange noises are heard, proceeding from every point. These are the precursors of the Night of Brahmâ, *dusk rises at the horizon*, and the Sun passes away behind the thirteenth degree of Makara [the tenth sign of the Zodiac], and will reach no more the sign of the *Minas* [the Zodiacal sign of Pisces, or the Fish]. The Gurus of the Pagodas, appointed to watch the *Râshichakram* [Zodiac], may now break their circle and instruments, for they are henceforth useless.

Gradually light pales, heat diminishes, uninhabited spots multiply on the earth, the air becomes more and more rarefied, the springs of waters dry up, the great

<sup>1</sup> Compare the *Siphra Dzenioutha*

<sup>2</sup> Vol I, p. 50

<sup>3</sup> Pp 219-21

rivers see their waves exhausted, the ocean shows its sandy bottom and plants die. Men and animals decrease in size daily. Life and motion lose their force, planets can hardly gravitate in space, they are extinguished one by one, like a lamp which the hand of the chakra [servant] neglects to replenish. Sūrya [the Sun] flickers and goes out, matter falls into dissolution [Pralaya], and Brahmā merges back into Dyaus, the Un-revealed God, and, his task being accomplished, he falls asleep. Another day is passed, night sets in, and continues until the future Dawn.

And now again he re-enters into the golden egg of his Thought the germs of all that exist, as the divine Man tells us. During His peaceful rest, the animated beings, endowed with the principles of action, cease their functions, and all feeling [Manas] becomes dormant. When they are all absorbed in the SUPREME SOUL, this Soul of all the beings sleeps in complete repose, till the Day when it resumes its form, and awakes again from its primitive darkness.<sup>1</sup>

As the "Satya Yuga" is always the first in the series of the Four Ages or Yugas, so the Kali ever comes the last. The Kali Yuga now reigns supreme in India, and it seems to coincide with that of the Western Age. Anyhow, it is curious to see how prophetic in almost all things was the writer of *Vishnu Purāna*, when foretelling to Maitreya some of the dark influences and sins of this Kali Yuga. For after saying that the "barbarians" will be masters of the banks of the Indus, of Chandrabhāgā and Kāshmīra, he adds:

[There] will be contemporary monarchs, reigning over the earth, kings of churlish spirit, violent temper, and ever addicted to falsehood and wickedness. They will inflict death on women, children, and cows, they will seize upon the property of their subjects [or, according to another reading, *be intent upon the wives of others*], they will be of limited power. Their lives will be short, their desires insatiable. People of various countries intermingling with them will follow their example, and, the barbarians being powerful [in India] in the patronage of the princes, whilst purer tribes are neglected, the people will perish [or, as the commentator has it "the Mlechchhas will be in the centre, and the Āryas in the end"]<sup>2</sup>. Wealth and piety will decrease day by day, until the world will be wholly depraved. Property alone will confer rank, wealth will be the only source of devotion, passion will be the sole bond of union between the sexes, falsehood will be the only means of success in litigation, and women will be objects merely of sensual gratification. External types will be the only distinction of the several orders of life, dishonesty [anyāya] will be the (universal) means of subsistence, weakness the cause of dependence, menace and presumption will be substituted for learning, liberality will be devotion, mutual assent will be marriage; fine clothes will be dignity. He who is the strongest will reign, the people, unable to bear the heavy burthens [khara-bhāra, load of taxes], will take refuge among the valleys. Thus, in the Kali age, shall decay constantly proceed, until the human race approaches its annihilation [pralaya]. When the close of the Kali age shall be nigh, a portion of that divine being who exists, of his own spiritual nature [Kalki Avatāra] shall descend upon earth, endowed with the eight super-human faculties. He will re-establish righteousness upon earth, and the minds of those who live at the end of Kali age shall be awakened, and shall be as pellucid as crystal. The men who are thus changed . . . shall be as the seeds of human beings, and shall give birth to a race who shall follow the laws of the Krita age.

<sup>1</sup> See Jacolliot's *Les Fils de Dieu*, and *l'Inde des Brahmes*, p. 230.

<sup>2</sup> If this is not prophetic, what is?

(or age of purity) As it is said “ When the sun and moon and (the Lunar asterism) Tishya, and the planet Jupiter are in one mansion, the Krita [or Satya] Age shall return <sup>1</sup>

Two persons, Devâpi, of the race of Kuru, and Maru [Moru], of the family of Ikshvâku, . . . continue alive throughout the Four Ages, residing at . . . Kalâpa.<sup>2</sup> They will return hither, in the beginning of the Krita Age<sup>3</sup> . . . Maru [Moru]<sup>4</sup> the son of Shighra, through the power of devotion (Yoga) is still living . . . and will be the restorer of the Kshattriya race of the Solar Dynasty.<sup>5</sup>

Whether right or wrong with regard to the latter prophecy, the  *blessings*  of Kali Yuga are well described, and fit in admirably even with that which one sees and hears in Europe and other civilized and Christian lands in the full XIXth, and at the dawn of the XXth century of our great era of ENLIGHTENMENT ”

<sup>1</sup> *Vishnu Purâna*, Wilson, Vol IV, pp 224-9.

<sup>2</sup> The *Matsya Purâna* gives Katâpa

<sup>3</sup> *Vishnu Purâna*, *ibid*

<sup>4</sup> Max Muller translates the name as Morya, of the Morya dynasty, to which Chandragupta belonged (See *History of Ancient Sanskrit Literature*) In *Matsya Purâna*, chapter cclxxii, the dynasty of ten Moryas, (or Maureyas) is spoken of In the same chapter, it is stated that the Moryas will one day reign over India, after restoring the Kshattriya race many thousand years hence Only that reign will be purely Spiritual and “not of this world” It will be the kingdom of the next Avatâra Colonel Tod believes the name Morya (or Maurya), to be a corruption of Mori, a Rajpût tribe, and the commentary on the *Mahâvanso* thinks that some princes have taken their name Maurya from their town called Mori, or as Professor Max Muller gives it, Morya-Nâgara, which is more correct, after the original *Mahâvanso* The *Sanskrit Encyclopedia*, *Vâchaspattya*, we are informed by our Brother, Dewan Bâdhâdur R Ragoonath Rao, of Madras, places Katâpa (Kalâpa) on the northern side of the Himâlayas, hence in Tibet The same is stated in the *Bhâgavata Purâna*, Skanda xii

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid* , Vol III, p 325 The *Vâyu Purâna* declares that Moru will re-establish the Kshattriyas in the Nineteenth coming Yuga (See *Five Years of Theosophy*, p. 482, art. “ The *Purânas* on the Dynasty of the Moryas and on Koothoomi ”)

## SECTION 8

### THE LOTUS, AS A UNIVERSAL SYMBOL

THERE are no ancient symbols without a deep and philosophical meaning attached to them, their importance and significance increasing with their antiquity. Such is the Lotus. It is the flower sacred to Nature and her Gods, and represents the Abstract and the Concrete Universes, standing as the emblem of the productive powers of both spiritual and physical nature. It was held as sacred from the remotest antiquity by the Âryan Hindus, the Egyptians, and by the Buddhists after them. It was revered in China and Japan, and adopted as a Christian emblem by the Greek and Latin Churches, who made of it a messenger, as do now the Christians, who have replaced it with the water-lily

[In the Christian religion, in every picture of the Annunciation, Gabriel, the Archangel, appears to the Virgin Mary, holding in his hand a spray of water-lilies. This spray, typifying fire and Water, or the idea of creation and generation, symbolizes *precisely the same idea as the Lotus* in the hand of the Bodhisattva who announces to Mahâ-mâyâ, Gautama's mother, the birth of Buddha, the world's Saviour. Thus also, were Osiris and Horus constantly represented by the Egyptians in association with the Lotus-flower, both being Sun-Gods or Fire; just as the Holy Ghost is still typified by "tongues of fire," in the Acts.]

It had, and still has, its mystic meaning, which is identical in every nation on earth. We refer the reader to Sir William Jones.<sup>1</sup> With the Hindus, the Lotus is the emblem of the productive power of Nature, though the agency of fire and water, or spirit and matter. "O Thou Eternal! I see Brahm, the Creator, enthroned in thee above the Lotus!" says a verse in the *Bhagavad Gîtâ*.<sup>2</sup> And Sir W. Jones shows, as already noted in the STANZAS, that the seeds of the Lotus, even before they germinate, contain perfectly-formed leaves, the miniature shapes of what they will become one day, as perfected plants. The Lotus, in India, is the symbol of prolific Earth and, what is more, of Mount Meru. The four Angels or Genii of the four

<sup>1</sup> See *Dissertations Relating to Asia*

<sup>2</sup> See Discourse, xi, v. 15

quarters of Heaven, the Mahârâjas of the STANZAS, stand each on a Lotus. The Lotus is the two-fold type of the Divine and Human Hermaphrodite, being so to say, of dual sex.

With the Hindus, the Spirit of Fire (or Heat)—which stirs up, fructifies, and develops into concrete form (from its ideal prototype), everything which is born of WATER, or Primordial Earth—evolved Brahmâ. The Lotus flower, represented as growing out of Vishnu's navel, the God who rests on the waters of Space on the Serpent of Infinity, is the most graphic symbol<sup>1</sup> ever yet made. It is the Universe evolving from the central Sun, the POINT, the ever-concealed Germ. Lakshmî, who is the female aspect of Vishnu, and who is also called *Padma*, the Lotus, in the *Râmâyana*, is likewise shown floating on a Lotus-flower, at the "Creation," and during the "churning of the ocean" of Space, as also springing from the "Sea of Milk," like Venus-Aphrodite from the Foam of the Ocean.

Then, seated on a lotus,  
Beauty's bright Goddess, peerless Shri, arose  
Out of the waves

sings an English Orientalist and poet, Sir Monier Williams.

The underlying idea, in this symbol, is very beautiful, and, furthermore, shows an identical parentage in all the religious systems. Whether as the Lotus or water-lily, it signifies one and the same philosophical idea; namely, the emanation of the objective from the subjective, divine Ideation passing from the abstract into the concrete, or visible form. For, as soon as DARKNESS, or rather that which is "darkness" for ignorance, has disappeared in its own realm of Eternal Light, leaving behind itself only its divine manifested Ideation, the creative Logoi have their understanding opened, and they see in the Ideal World, (hitherto concealed in the Divine Thought), the archetypal forms of all, and proceed to copy and build, or fashion, upon these models, forms evanescent and transcendent.

At this stage of Action, the Demiurge is not yet the Architect. Born in the Twilight of Action, he has yet first to perceive the Plan, to realize the Ideal Forms, which lie buried in the bosom of Eternal Ideation, just as the future lotus-leaves, the immaculate petals, are concealed within the seed of that plant.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Allegory, in the 1888 edition

<sup>2</sup> In Esoteric Philosophy the Demiurge, or Logos, regarded as the CREATOR, is simply an abstract term, an idea, like the word "army." As the latter is the all-embracing term for a body of active forces, or working units—soldiers, so is the Demiurge the qualitative compound of a multitude of Creators or Builders. E. Burnouf, the Great Orientalist, seized the idea perfectly, when he said that Brahmâ does not create the Earth, any more than the rest of the universe. He says:

Having evolved himself from the Soul of the World, once separated from the First Cause, he evaporates with, and emanates, all Nature out of himself. He does not stand above it, but is mixed up with it, Brahmâ and the Universe form one Being, each particle of which is in its essence Brahmâ himself, who proceeded out of himself.



In a chapter of the *Book of the Dead*, called "Transformation into the Lotus," the God, figured as a head emerging from this flower, exclaims :

I am the pure Lotus, emerging from the Luminous Ones I carry the messages of Horus I am the pure Lotus which comes from the Solar Fields.<sup>1</sup>

The lotus-idea may be traced even in the Elohistic first chapter of *Genesis*, as stated in *Isis Unveiled*. It is to this idea that we must look for the origin and explanation of the verse in the Jewish Cosmogony which reads . "And God said, Let the earth bring forth . . . the fruit-tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself."<sup>2</sup> In all the primitive religions, the Creative God is the "Son of the Father," that is to say, his Thought made visible ; and before the Christian era, from the Trimûrti of the Hindus down to the three Kabalistic Heads of the Scriptures, as explained by the Jews, the Triune Godhead of each nation was fully defined and substantiated, in its allegories.

Such is the cosmic and ideal significance of this great symbol with the Eastern peoples. But when applied to practical and exoteric worship, which had also its esoteric symbology, the Lotus, in time, became the carrier and container of a more terrestrial idea. No dogmatic religion has ever escaped having the sexual element in it ; and to this day it soils the moral beauty of the root idea of symbology The following is quoted from the same Kabalistic MS which we have already cited on several occasions :

Pointing to like signification was the lotus growing in the waters of the Nile Its mode of growth peculiarly fitted it as a symbol of the generative activities The flower of the lotus, which is the bearer of the seed for reproduction as the result of its maturing, is connected with its placenta-like attachments to mother-earth, or the womb of Isis, through the water of the womb, that is, the river Nile, by the long cord-like stalk, the umbilicus Nothing can be plainer than the symbol, and to make it perfect in its intended signification, a child is sometimes represented as seated in or issuing from the flower<sup>3</sup> Thus Osiris and Isis, the children of Kronos, or time without end, in the development of their nature forces, in this picture become the parents of man under the name Horus<sup>4</sup>

We cannot lay too great stress upon the use of this generative function as a basis for a symbolic language, and a scientific art-speech Thought upon the idea leads at once to reflection upon the subject of creative cause In its workings nature is observed to have fashioned a wonderful piece of living mechanism, governed by an added living soul, the life development and history of which soul, as to its whence, its

<sup>1</sup> Ch lxxxI

<sup>2</sup> Genesis I, 11

<sup>3</sup> In the Indian *Purânas*, it is Vishnu, the First, and Brâhma, the Second Logos, or the ideal and practical creators, who are respectively represented, one as manifesting the lotus, the other as issuing from it

<sup>4</sup> See Section 9, "The Moon, Deus Lunus, Phœbe "

present, and its whither, surpass all efforts of the human intellect<sup>1</sup> The new-born is an ever-recurring miracle, an evidence that within the workshop of the womb an intelligent creative power has intervened to fasten a living soul to a physical machine The amazing wonderfulness of the fact attaches a holy sacredness to all connected with the organs of reproduction, as the dwelling and place of evident constructive intervention of deity<sup>2</sup>

This is a correct rendering of the underlying ideas of old, of the purely pantheistic conceptions, *impersonal* and reverential, of the archaic philosophers of the prehistoric ages. It is not so, however, when applied to sinful humanity, to the gross ideas attached to personality. Therefore, no pantheistic philosopher would fail to find the remarks that follow the above, and which represent the anthropomorphism of Judean symbology, other than dangerous for the sacredness of true religion, and fitting only for our materialistic age, which is the direct outcome and result of that anthropomorphic character. For this is the key-note to the entire spirit and essence of the *Old Testament*, as the MS states, treating of the symbolism of the art-speech of the *Bible* :

Therefore the locality of the womb is to be taken as the Most Holy Place, the Sanctum Sanctorum, and the veritable temple of the Living God<sup>3</sup> With man, the possession of the woman has always been considered as an essential part of himself, to make one out of two, and jealously guarded as sacred Even the part of the ordinary house or home consecrated to the dwelling of the wife was called the *penetralia*, the secret or sacred, and hence the metaphor of the Holy of Holies of sacred constructions taken from the idea of the sacredness of the organs of generation. Carried to an extreme of description<sup>4</sup> by metaphor, this part of a house or home is described in the Sacred Books as the "between the thighs of the house," and sometimes the idea is carried out constructively in the great door-opening of churches placed inward between flanking buttresses<sup>5</sup>

No such thought, "carried to the extreme," ever existed among the old primitive Âryans. This is proven by the fact that, in the Vedic period, their women were not placed apart from men in *penetralia*, or *Zenânas*. This seclusion began when the Mahommedans—the next heirs to Hebrew symbolism, after Christian ecclesiasticism—had conquered the land and gradually

<sup>1</sup> Not the efforts, however, of the trained psychic faculties of an Initiate into Eastern Metaphysics, and the Mysteries of creative Nature It is the profane of the past ages, who have degraded the pure ideal of cosmic creation into an emblem of mere human reproduction and sexual functions it is the Esoteric Teachings, and the Initiates of the Future, whose mission it is, and will be, to redeem and ennoble once more the primitive conception, so sadly profaned by its crude and gross application to exoteric dogmas and personations, by theological and ecclesiastical religionists The silent worship of abstract or noumenal Nature, the only divine manifestation, is the one ennobling religion of Humanity

<sup>2</sup> *The Source of Measures*, MS, pp 15-6

<sup>3</sup> Surely the words of the old Initiate into the primitive Mysteries of Christianity, "Know ye not ye are the Temple of God" (1 *Corinth*, iii, 16), could not be applied in this sense to men, though the meaning was undeniably so stated, in the minds of the Hebrew compilers of the *Old Testament* And here is the abyss that lies between the symbolism of the *New Testament* and the Jewish canon This gulf would have remained, and have ever widened, had not Christianity, especially and most glaringly the Latin Church, thrown a bridge over it Modern Popery has now spanned it entirely, by its dogma of the two immaculate conceptions, and the anthropomorphic and, at the same time idolatrous, character it has conferred upon the Mother of its God

<sup>4</sup> It was so carried only in the Hebrew *Bible*, and its servile copyist, Christian theology

<sup>5</sup> *The Source of Measures*, MS., pp 16-7

enforced their ways and customs upon the Hindus. The pre- and post-Vedic woman was as free as man, and no impure terrestrial thought was ever mixed with the religious symbology of the early Âryans. The idea and application are purely Semitic. This is corroborated by the writer of the said intensely learned and Kabalistic revelation, when he closes the above-quoted passages by adding :

If to these organs as symbols of creative cosmic agencies the idea of the origin of measures as well as of time-periods can be attached, then indeed, in the constructions of the Temples as Dwellings of Deity, or of Jehovah, that part designated as the Holy of Holies, or The Most Holy Place, should borrow its title from the recognized sacredness of the generative organs, considered as symbols of measures as well as of creative cause. With the ancient wise, there was no name, and no idea, and no symbol of a First Cause.<sup>1</sup>


Most decidedly not. Rather never give a thought to it and leave it for ever nameless, as the early Pantheists did, than degrade the sacredness of that *Ideal of Ideals*, by dragging down its symbols into such anthropomorphic forms! Here again one perceives the immense chasm between Âryan and Semitic religious thought, the two opposite poles, Sincerity and Concealment. With the Brâhmans, who have never invested the natural procreative functions of mankind with an "original sin" element, it is a *religious duty* to have a son. A Brâhman, in days of old, having accomplished his mission of human creator, retired to the jungle, and passed the rest of his days in religious meditation. He had accomplished his duty to nature, as mortal man and its co-worker, and henceforth gave all his thoughts to the spiritual and immortal portion of himself, regarding the terrestrial as a mere illusion, an evanescent dream—which, indeed it is. With the Semite, it was different. He invented a temptation of flesh in a garden of Eden, and showed his God—esoterically, the Tempter and the Ruler of Nature—CURSING for ever an act, which was in the logical programme of that Nature.<sup>2</sup> All this exoterically, as in the cloak and dead-letter of *Genesis* and the rest. At the same time, esoterically, he regarded the supposed *sin* and FALL as an act so sacred, as to choose the organ, the perpetrator of the *original sin*, as the fittest and most sacred symbol to represent that God, who is shown as branding its entering into function as disobedience and everlasting SIN!

Who can ever fathom the paradoxical depths of the Semitic mind! And this paradoxical element, *minus* its innermost significance, has now passed entirely into Christian theology and dogma!

<sup>1</sup> Ibid, p. 17

<sup>2</sup> The same idea is carried out exoterically in the incidents of the exodus from Egypt. The Lord God tempts Pharaoh sorely, and "plagues him with great plagues," lest the king should escape punishment, and thus afford no pretext for one more triumph to his "chosen people."

Whether the early Fathers of the Church knew the esoteric meaning of the Hebrew (Old) *Testament*, or whether only a few of them were aware of it, while the others remained ignorant of the secret, is for posterity to decide. One thing, at any rate, is certain. As the Esotericism of the *New Testament* agrees perfectly with that of the Hebrew Mosaic Books, and since, at the same time, a number of purely Egyptian symbols and Pagan dogmas in general—the Trinity, for example—have been copied by, and incorporated into, the Synoptics and St John, it becomes evident that the identity of those symbols was known to the writers of the *New Testament*, whoever they may have been. They must have been also aware of the priority of the Egyptian Esotericism, since they have adopted several symbols which typify purely Egyptian conceptions and beliefs, in their outward and inward meaning, and which are not to be found in the Jewish Canon. One of these is the water-lily in the hands of the Archangel, in the early representations of his appearance to the Virgin Mary, and these symbolical images are preserved to this day in the iconography of the Greek and Roman Churches. Thus Water, Fire and the Cross, as well as the Dove, the Lamb and other Sacred Animals, with all their combinations, esoterically yield an identical meaning, and must have been accepted as an improvement upon Judaism pure and simple.

For the Lotus and Water are among the oldest symbols, and in their origin are purely Âryan, though they became common property during the branching off of the Fifth Race. To give an example: letters, as well as numbers, were all mystic, whether in combination, or taken separately. The most sacred of all is the letter M. It is both feminine and masculine, or androgyne, and is made to symbolize WATER in its origin, the great deep. It is a mystic letter in all languages, Eastern and Western, and stands as a glyph for the waves, thus . In the Âryan Esotericism, as in the Semitic, this letter has always stood for the Waters. In Sanskrit, for instance, MAKARA, the tenth sign of the Zodiac, means a crocodile, or rather an aquatic monster associated always with Water. The letter MA is equivalent to, and corresponds with, the number 5, which is composed of a *Binary*, the symbol of the two sexes separated, and of a *Ternary*, the symbol of the Third Life, the progeny of the *Binary*. This, again, is often symbolized by a *Pentagon*, the latter being a sacred sign, a divine Monogram. MAITREYA is the secret name of the Fifth Buddha, and the Kalki Avatâra of the Brâhmins, the last MESSIAH who will come at the culmination of the Great Cycle. It is also the initial letter of the Greek Metis, or Divine Wisdom; of Mimra, the ‘Word,’ or Logos; and of Mithras (the Mihr), the Monad, Mystery. All these are born in, and from, the Great Deep, and are the Sons of Mâyâ, the Mother, in Egypt, Moot, in

Greece, *Minerva* (divine wisdom); of *Mary*, or *Miriam*, *Myrrha*, etc., the Mother of the Christian Logos; and of *Mâyâ*, the Mother of Buddha. *Mâdhava* and *Mâdhavi* are the titles of the most important Gods and Goddesses of the Hindu Pantheon. Finally, *Mandala* is, in Sanskrit, a "circle," or an Orb, also the ten divisions of the *Rig Veda*. The most sacred names in India generally begin with this letter, from *Mahat*, the first manifested Intellect, and *Mandara*, the great mountain used by the Gods to churn the Ocean, down to *Mandâkinî*, the heavenly *Gangâ* (or Ganges), *Manu*, etc., etc.

Will this be called a coincidence? A strange one is it then, indeed, when we see even Moses, found in the water of the Nile, with the symbolical consonant in his name. And Pharaoh's daughter "called his name Moses, and she said. Because I drew him out of the Water."<sup>1</sup> Besides which, the Hebrew sacred name of God, applied to this letter *M*, is *Meborach*, the "Holy" or the "Blessed," and the name for the Water of the Flood is *M'bul*. A reminder of the "three Maries" at the Crucifixion, and their connection with *Mare*, the Sea, or Water, may close these examples. This is why, in Judaism and Christianity, the Messiah is always connected with Water, Baptism; and also with the Fishes, the sign of the Zodiac called *Minam* in Sanskrit, and even with the *Matsya* (Fish) *Avatâra*, and the Lotus, the symbol of the womb, or with the water-lily, which has the same signification.

In the relics of ancient Egypt, the greater the antiquity of the votive symbols and emblems of the objects exhumed, the oftener are Lotus-flowers and Water found in connection with the Solar Gods. The God *Khnoom*, the Moist Power, or Water, as Thales taught, being the principle of all things, sits on a throne enshrined in a Lotus. The God *Bes* stands on a Lotus, ready to devour his progeny. *Thot*, the God of Mystery and Wisdom, the sacred Scribe of *Amenti*, wearing the solar disk as head gear, sits with a bull's head—the sacred bull of Mendes being a form of *Thot*—and a human body, on a full blown Lotus. Finally, it is the Goddess *Hiquit*, under her shape of a frog, who rests on the Lotus, thus showing her connection with water. And it is from the unpoetical shape of this frog-symbol, undeniably the glyph of the most ancient of the Egyptian Deities, that the Egyptologists have been vainly trying to unravel the mystery and functions of the Goddess. Its adoption in the Church, by the early Christians, shows that they knew it better than our modern Orientalists. The "frog or toad-Goddess" was one of the chief Cosmic Deities connected with Creation, on account of this animal's amphibious nature, and chiefly because of its apparent resurrection, after long ages of

<sup>1</sup> *Exodus*, II, 10. Even to the seven daughters of the Midianite priest, who came to draw water, and whom Moses helped to water their flock, for which service the Midianite gives Moses his daughter *Zipporah*, or *Sippara*, the shining Wave, as wife (*Exod.* II, 16-21.) All this has the same secret meaning.

solitary life, enshrined in old walls, in rocks, etc. She not only participated in the organization of the World, together with Khnoom, but was also connected with *the dogma of resurrection*.<sup>1</sup> There must have been some very profound and sacred meaning attached to this symbol, since, notwithstanding the risk of being charged with a disgusting form of zoolatry, the early Egyptian Christians adopted it in their Churches. A frog or toad, enshrined in a Lotus-flower, or simply without the latter emblem, was the form chosen for the *Church-lamps*, on which were engraved the words, “Ἐγώ εἰμι ἡ ἀνάστασις” —I am the resurrection.<sup>2</sup> These frog-goddesses are also found on all the mummies

<sup>1</sup> With the Egyptians it was the resurrection in rebirth, after 3,000 years of purification, either in Devachan or the “Fields of Bliss”

<sup>2</sup> Such “frog-Goddesses” may be seen at Boulak, in the Cairo Museum. For the statement about the Church-lamps and inscriptions, the learned ex-director of the Boulak Museum, M. Gaston Maspero, must be held responsible. (See his *Guide au Musée de Boulak*, p. 146.)

## SECTION 9

### THE MOON ; DEUS LUNUS, PHŒBE

THIS archaic symbol is the most poetical of all symbols, as also the most philosophical. The ancient Greeks brought it into prominence, and the modern poets have worn it threadbare. The Queen of Night, riding in the majesty of her peerless light in Heaven, throwing all, even Hesperus, into darkness, and spreading her silver mantle over the whole sidereal world, has ever been a favourite theme with all the poets of Christendom, from Milton and Shakespeare down to the latest versifier. But the refulgent lamp of night, with her suite of stars unnumbered, spoke only to the imagination of the profane. Until lately, Religion and Science had nought to do with the beautiful mythos. Yet, the cold chaste Moon, she, who, in the words of Shelley :

. . . makes all beautiful on which she smiles  
That wandering shrine of soft yet icy flame  
Which ever is transformed, yet still the same,  
And warms not but illumines . . .<sup>1</sup>

stands in closer relations to Earth than any other sidereal orb. The Sun is the giver of Life to the whole Planetary System, the Moon is the Giver of Life to our Globe, and the early races understood and knew it, even in their infancy. She is the Queen, and she is the King. She was King Soma before she became transformed into Phœbe and the chaste Diana. She is pre-eminently the Deity of the Christians, through the Mosaic and Kabalistic Jews, though the civilized world may have remained ignorant of the fact for long ages, in fact, ever since the last initiated Father of the Church died, carrying with him into his grave the secrets of the pagan temples. For such "Fathers" as Origen or Clemens Alexandrinus, the Moon was Jehovah's living symbol, the giver of Life and the giver of Death, the disposer of Being—in our World. For, if Artemis was *Luna* in Heaven, and, with the Greeks, *Diana* on Earth, who presided over child-birth and life; with the Egyptians, she was *Hekat* (*Hecate*) in Hell, the Goddess of Death, who ruled over magic and enchantments. More than this; as the personified Moon, whose phenomena are triadic, *Diana-Hecate-Luna* is the *three in one*. For she is *Diva triformis*,

<sup>1</sup> In *Epipsychidion*

*tergmina*, *triceps*, [The three-formed, triplex, three-headed goddess] three heads on one neck,<sup>1</sup> like Brahmâ-Vishnu-Shiva. Hence she is the prototype of our Trinity, which has not always been entirely male. The number seven, so prominent in the *Bible*, so sacred in the seventh day, or Sabbath, came to the Jews from antiquity, deriving its origin from the four-fold number 7 contained in the 28 days of the lunar month, each septenary portion thereof being typified by one quarter of the Moon.

It is worth the trouble of presenting, in this work, a bird's-eye view of the origin and development of the lunar myth and worship, in historical antiquity, on our side of the globe. Its earlier origin is untraceable by exact Science, which rejects all tradition; while for Theology, which, under the guidance of the crafty Popes, has put a brand on every fragment of literature that does not bear the *imprimatur* of the Church of Rome, its archaic history is a sealed book. Whether the Egyptian or the Âryan Hindu religious philosophy is the more ancient—the SECRET DOCTRINE says it is the latter—does not much matter, in this instance, as the Lunar and Solar “worship” are the most ancient in the world. Both have survived, and prevail to this day throughout the whole world; with some openly, with others—as, for instance, in Christian symbology—secretly. The cat, a lunar symbol, was sacred to Isis, who was the Moon in one sense, just as Osiris was the Sun, and is often seen on the top of the *Sistrum* in the hand of the Goddess. This animal was held in great veneration in the city of Bubastis, which went into deep mourning on the death of the sacred cats, because Isis, as the Moon, was particularly worshipped in that city of mysteries. The astronomical symbolism connected with it has already been given in Section 1, and no one has better described it than Mr. Gerald Massey, in his *Lectures* and in *The Natural Genesis*. The eye of the cat, it is said, seems to follow the lunar phases in their growth and decline, and its orbs shine like two stars in the darkness of night. Hence the mythological allegory which shows Diana hiding in the Moon, under the shape of a cat, when she was seeking, in company with other deities, to escape the pursuit of Typhon, as related in the *Metamorphoses* of Ovid. The Moon, in Egypt, was both the “Eye of Horus” and the “Eye of Osiris,” the Sun.

The same with the *Cynocephalus*. The dog-headed ape was a glyph to symbolize the Sun and Moon, in turn, though the *Cynocephalus* is more a *Hermetic* than a *religious* symbol. For it is the hieroglyph of Mercury, the planet, and of the Mercury of the Alchemical philosophers, who say that

Mercury has to be ever near Isis, as *her minister*, for without Mercury neither Isis nor Osiris can accomplish anything in the GREAT WORK.

<sup>1</sup> The Goddess *Τρίμορφος* [three-formed] in the statuary of Alcamenes



The Cynocephalus, whenever represented with the Caduceus, the Crescent, or the Lotus, is a glyph of the "philosophical" Mercury; but when seen with a reed, or a roll of parchment, he stands for Hermes, the secretary and adviser of Isis, as Hanumân filled the same office with Râma.

Though the Regular Sun-Worshippers, the Parsis, are few, yet not only is the bulk of the Hindu mythology and history based upon, and interblended with, these two worships, but so is even the Christian religion itself. From their origin down to our modern day, it has coloured the theologies of both the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches. Indeed, the difference between the Âryan Hindu and the Âryan European faiths is very small, if only the fundamental ideas of both are taken into consideration. Hindus are proud of calling themselves Sûryavamshas and Chandravamshas, of the *Solar* and *Lunar* Dynasties. The Christians pretend to regard this as idolatry, and yet they adhere to a religion entirely based upon Solar and Lunar worship. It is vain and useless for the Protestants to exclaim against the Roman Catholics for their "Mariolatry," based on the ancient cult of lunar goddesses, when they themselves worship Jehovah, pre-eminently a *lunar* God, and when both Churches have accepted in their theologies the *Sun-Christ* and the *Lunar Trinity*.

What is known of Chaldean Moon-Worship, of the Babylonian God, *Sin*, called by the Greeks "*Deus Lunus*," is very little, and that little is apt to mislead the profane student, who fails to grasp the esoteric significance of the symbols. As popularly known to the ancient profane philosophers and writers—for those who were initiated were pledged to silence—the Chaldeans were the worshippers of the Moon under *her*, and *his*, various names, just as were the Jews, who came after them.

In the unpublished MS. on the Art-Speech, already mentioned, giving a key to the formation of the ancient symbolical language, a logical *raison d'être* is brought forward for this double worship. It is written by a wonderfully well-informed and acute scholar and Mystic, who gives it in the comprehensive form of a hypothesis. The latter, however, forcibly becomes a proven fact in the history of religious evolution in human thought, to anyone who has ever had a glimpse into the secret of ancient symbology. Thus, he says:

One of the first occupations among men connected with those of actual necessity would be the perception of time periods,<sup>1</sup> marked on the vaulted arch of the heavens, sprung and rising over the level floor of the horizon, or the plain of still water. These would come to be marked as those of day and night, of the phases of

<sup>1</sup> Ancient Mythology includes ancient Astronomy as well as Astrology. The planets were the hands pointing out, on the dial of our Solar system, the hours of certain periodical events. Thus, Mercury was the messenger, appointed to keep time during the daily solar and lunar phenomena, and was otherwise connected with the God and Goddess of Light.

the moon, of its stellar or synodic revolutions, and of the period of the solar year with recurrence of the seasons, and with the application to such periods of the natural measure of day or night, or of the day divided into the light and the dark. It would also be discovered that there was a longest and shortest solar day, and two solar days of equal day and night, within the period of the solar year, and the points in the year of these could be marked with the greatest precision in the starry groups of the heavens or the constellations, subject to that retrograde movement thereof, which in time would require correction by intercalation, as was the case in the description of the Flood, where a correction of 150 days was made for a period of 600 years, during which confusion of landmarks had increased [This] would naturally come to pass . . . with all races in all time, and such knowledge must be taken to have been as inherent in the human race, prior to what we call the historic period as during the same<sup>1</sup>

On this basis, the author seeks for some natural physical function, possessed in common by the human race, and connected with the periodical manifestations, such that "the connection between the two kinds of phenomena . . . became fixed in common or popular usage." He finds it in :

(a) [The feminine physiological phenomena] every lunar month of 28 days, or 4 weeks of 7 days each, so that 13 occurrences of the period should happen in 364 days, which is the solar week-year of 52 weeks of 7 days each (b) The quickening of the fœtus is marked by a period of 126 days, or 18 weeks of 7 days each (c) That period which is called "the period of viability" is one of 210 days, or 30 weeks of 7 days each (d) The period of parturition is accomplished in 280 days or a period of 40 weeks of 7 days each, or 10 lunar months of 28 days each, or of 9 calendar months of 31 days each, counting on the royal arch of the heavens for the measure of the period of traverse from the darkness of the womb to the light and glory of conscious existence, that continuing inscrutable mystery and miracle Thus the observed periods of time marking the workings of the birth function would naturally become a basis of astronomical calculation We may affirm . . . that this was the mode of reckoning among all nations, either independently, or intermediately and indirectly by tuition It was the mode with the Hebrews, for even to-day they calculate the calendar by means of the 354 and 355 days of the lunar year, and we possess a special evidence that it was the mode with the ancient Egyptians, as to which this is the proof

The basic idea underlying the religious philosophy of the Hebrews was that God contained all things within himself,<sup>2</sup> and that man was his image, man including woman

The place of the man and woman with the Hebrews was among the Egyptians occupied by the bull and the cow, sacred to Osiris and Isis,<sup>3</sup> who were represented, respectively, by a man having a bull's head, and a woman having the head of a cow ; which symbols were worshipped Notoriously Osiris was the sun and the river Nile, the tropical year of 365 days, which number is the value of the word Neilos, and the bull, as he was also the principle of fire and of life-giving force, while Isis was the moon, the bed of the river Nile, or the mother earth, for the parturient energies of which water was a necessity, the lunar year of 354-364 days, the time-maker of the periods of gestation, and the cow, marked by, or with, the crescent new moon .

<sup>1</sup> Pp. 7, 8

<sup>2</sup> A caricatured and dwarfed Vedāntin notion of Parabrahman containing within itself the whole Universe, as being that boundless Universe itself, and *nothing existing outside of itself*

<sup>3</sup> Just as they are to this day in India, the bull of Shiva, and the cow representing several Shaktis, or goddesses

But the use of the cow of the Egyptians for the woman of the Hebrews was not intended as of any radical difference of signification, but a concurrence in the teaching intended, and merely as the substitution of a symbol of common import, which was this, viz , the period of parturition with the cow and the woman was held to be the same, or 280 days, or ten lunar months of 4 weeks each. And in this period consisted the essential value of this animal symbol, whose mark was that of the crescent new moon <sup>1</sup>.

These parturient and natural periods are found to have been subjects of symbolism all over the world. They were thus used by the Hindus, and are found to be most plainly set forth by the ancient Americans, in the Richardson and Gest tablets, in the Palenque Cross and elsewhere, and manifestly lay at the base of the formation of the calendar forms of the Mayas of Yucatan, the Hindus, the Assyrians, and the ancient Babylonians, as well as the Egyptians and old Hebrews. The natural symbols would be either the phallus or the phallus and yoni, male and female. Indeed, the words translated by the generalizing terms male and female, in the 27th verse of the first chapter of Genesis are *sacr* and *n'cabvah* or literally, phallus and yoni <sup>2</sup>. While the representation of the phallic emblems would barely indicate the genital members of the human body, when their functions and the development of the seed-vesicles emanating from them were considered, there would come into indication a mode of measures of lunar time, and through lunar, of solar time <sup>3</sup>.

This is the physiological or anthropological key to the Moon symbol. The key that opens the mystery of Theogony, or the evolution of the manvantaric Gods, is more complicated, and has nothing phallic in it. There, all is mystical and divine. But the Jews, beyond connecting Jehovah directly with the Moon as a generative God, preferred to ignore the higher Hierarchies, and have made their Patriarchs of some of these zodiacal constellations and planetary gods, thus euhemerizing the purely Theosophical idea and dragging it down to the level of sinful humanity. The MS., from which the above is extracted, explains very clearly to what hierarchy of Gods Jehovah belonged, and who this Jewish God was, for it shows, in clear language, that which the writer has always insisted upon, namely, that the God with which the Christians have burdened themselves was no better than the lunar symbol of the reproductive or generative faculty in Nature. They have ever ignored even the Hebrew secret God of the Kabalists, Ain Soph, a conception as grand as Parabrahman in the earliest Kabalistic and mystical ideas. But it is not the *Kabbala* of Rosenroth that can ever give the true original teachings of Shimeon Ben Yochai, which were as metaphysical and philosophical as any could be. And how many are there among the students of the *Kabalah* who know anything of them except in their distorted Latin translations? Let us glance at the idea which led the ancient Jews to adopt a substitute for the Ever-UNKNOWNABLE, and which has misled the Christians into mistaking the substitute for the reality.

If to these organs [phallus and yoni] as symbols of creative cosmic agencies the idea of . . . time periods can be attached, then, indeed, in the construction of Temples

<sup>1</sup> Hence the worship of the Moon by the Hebrews.

<sup>2</sup> "Male and female, created he them"

<sup>3</sup> MS., pp 11-5

as Dwellings of Deity, or of Jehovah, that part designated as the Holy of Holies, or The Most Holy Place, should borrow its title from the recognized sacredness of the generative organs, considered as symbols of measures as well as of creative cause.

With the ancient wise, there was no name, and no idea, and no symbol, of a First Cause<sup>1</sup>. With the Hebrews, the indirect conception of such was couched in a term of negation of comprehension, viz., the Ain Soph, or the Without Bounds. But the symbol of its *first comprehensible manifestation* was the conception of a circle with its diameter line, to at once carry a geometric, phallic, and astronomic idea, for the one takes its birth from the nought, or the circle, without which it could not be, and from the 1, or primal one, spring the 9 digits, and, geometrically, all plane shapes. So in Cabbalah this circle, with its diameter line, is the picture of the 10 Sephiroth, or Emanations, composing the Adam Kadmon, or the Archetypal Man, the creative origin of all things. This idea of connecting the picture of the circle and its diameter line, that is, the number 10 with the signification of the genital organs, and the Most Holy Place was carried out constructively in the King's Chamber, or Holy of Holies, of the Great Pyramid, in the Tabernacle of Moses, and in the Holy of Holies of the Temple of Solomon. It is *the picture of a double womb*, for in Hebrew the letter Hé [ת] is at the same time the number 5, and the symbol of the womb, and twice 5 is 10, or, the phallic number<sup>2</sup>.

This "double womb" also shows the duality of the idea carried from the highest or spiritual down to the lowest or terrestrial plane, and limited by the Jews to the latter. With them, therefore, the number seven has acquired the most prominent place in their exoteric religion, a cult of external forms and empty rituals; take, for instance, their Sabbath, the seventh day sacred to their Deity, the Moon, symbolical of the generative Jehovah. But, with other nations, the number seven was typical of theogonic evolution, of cycles, cosmic planes, and the Seven Forces and Occult Powers in Kosmos, as a Boundless Whole, whose first upper Triangle was unreachable to the finite intellect of man. While other nations, therefore, busied themselves, in their forcible limitation of Kosmos in Space and Time, only with its septenary manifested plane, the Jews centred this number solely in the Moon, and based all their sacred calculations thereupon. Hence we find the thoughtful author of the MS just quoted, remarking, in reference to the metrology of the Jews, that :

If 20,612 be multiplied by  $\frac{1}{2}$ , the product will afford a base for the ascertainment of the mean revolution of the moon : and if this product be again multiplied by  $\frac{1}{2}$ , this continued product will afford a base for finding the exact period of the mean solar year, this form becomes, for the finding of astronomical periods of time, of very great service<sup>3</sup>.

This double number—male and female—is symbolized also in some well-known idols; for instance :

Ardhanārī-Īshvara, the Isis of the Hindu, Eridanus, or Ardan, or the Hebrew Jordan, or source of descent. She is standing on a lotus leaf floating on the water. But the

<sup>1</sup> Because it was too sacred. It is referred to as THAT in the Vedas. It is the "Eternal Cause," and cannot, therefore, be spoken of as a "First Cause," a term implying the absence of Cause, at one time.

<sup>2</sup> MS, pp 18-20

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, pp 21-2.

signification is, that it is androgyne or hermaphrodite, that is phallus and yoni combined, the number 10, the Hebrew letter Yod [Y], the *containment of Jehovah*. She, or rather she-he, [gives] the minutes of the same circle of 360 degrees <sup>1</sup>

“Jehovah,” in its best aspect is Binah, the “Upper mediating Mother, the Great Sea or Holy Spirit,” and therefore rather a synonym of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, than of his Father; that “Mother, being the Latin Mare,” the Sea, is here, also, Venus, the Stella del Mare, or “Star of the Sea.”

The ancestors of the mysterious Akkadians—the Chandravamshas or Induvamshas, the Lunar Kings, whom tradition shows reigning at Prayâga (Allahabad), ages before our era—had come from India, and brought with them the worship of their forefathers, of Soma, and his son Budha, which afterwards become that of the Chaldeans. Yet such adoration, apart from popular Astrolatry and Heliolatry, was in no sense *idolatry*. No more, at any rate, than the modern Roman Catholic symbolism which connects the Virgin Mary, the Magna Mater of the Syrians and Greeks, with the Moon.

Of this worship, the most pious Roman Catholics feel quite proud, and loudly confess to it. In a *Mémoire* to the French Academy, the Marquis De Mirville says.

It is only natural that, as an unconscious prophecy, Ammon-Râ should be his mother's husband, since the Magna Mater of the Christians is *precisely the spouse of that son she conceives*. We [Christians] can understand now *why Neith throws radiance on the Sun, while remaining the Moon*, since the Virgin, who is the Queen of Heaven, as was Neith, clothes the Christ-Sun, as does Neith, and is clothed by him; “*Tu vestis solem et te sol vestit*” [as is sung by the Roman Catholics during their service]

We [Christians] understand also how it is that the famous inscription at Sais should have stated that “none has ever lifted my veil [peplum],” considering that this sentence, literally translated, is the *summary of what is sung in the Church on the day of the Immaculate Conception* <sup>2</sup>

Surely nothing could be more sincere than this! It justifies entirely what Mr. Gerald Massey has said in his Lecture on “Lunolatry, Ancient and Modern”:

The man in the moon [Osiris-Sut, Jehovah-Satan, Christ-Judas, and other Lunar Twins] is often charged with bad conduct. In the lunar phenomena the moon was one, as the moon, which was two-fold in sex, and three-fold in character, as mother, child, and adult male. Thus the child of the moon became the consort of his own mother! It could not be *helped* if there was to be any reproduction. He was compelled to be his own father! These relationships were repudiated by later sociology, and the primitive man in the moon got tabooed. Yet in its latest, most inexplicable phase, this has become the central doctrine of the grossest superstition the world has seen, for these lunar phenomena and their humanly represented relationships, the incestuous included, are the very foundations of the Christian Trinity in Unity. Through ignorance

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., pp. 23-4.

<sup>2</sup> *Pneumatologie Des Esprits*, tome, III, p. 117, “Archéologie de la Vierge Mère”

of the symbolism, the simple representation of early time has become the most profound religious mystery in modern Luniolatry. The Roman Church, without being in any wise ashamed of the proof, portrays the Virgin Mary arrayed with the sun, and the horned moon at her feet, holding the lunar infant in her arms—as child and consort of the mother moon! The mother, child, and adult male, are fundamental.

In this way it can be proved that our Christology is mummified mythology, and legendary lore, which have been palmed off upon us in the *Old Testament* and the *New*, as divine revelation uttered by the very voice of God!<sup>1</sup>

A charming allegory is found in the *Zohar*, one which unveils better than anything else ever did the true character of Jehovah, or YHVH, in the primitive conception of the Hebrew Kabalists. It is now found in the philosophy of Ibn Gebirol's *Kabalah*, translated by Isaac Myer.

In the introduction written by R. 'Hiz'qee-yah, which is very old, and forms part of the Brody edition of the *Zohar* (1 5b, sq.), is an account of a journey taken by R. El'azar, son of R. Shim-on b. Yo'hai, and R. Abbah. They met with a man bearing a heavy burden. They conversed together and the explanations of the Torah, by the man with the burden, were so wonderful, that they asked him for his name, he replied "Do not ask me who I am, but we will all proceed with the explanation of the Torah [Law]." They asked, "Who caused thee thus to walk and carry such a heavy load?" He answered "The letter י (Yod, which=10, and is the symbolical letter of Kether, and the essence and germ of the Holy Name יהוה, YHVH) made war, etc." They said to him "If thou wilt tell us the name of thy father, we will kiss the dust of thy feet." He replied "As to my father, he had his dwelling in the Great Sea, and was a fish therein [like Vishnu and Dagon or Oannes], which [first] destroyed the Great Sea and he was great and mighty and "Ancient of Days," until he swallowed all the other fishes in the (Great) Sea." R. El'azar listened to his words and said to him "Thou art the Son of the Holy Flame, thou art the son of Rab Ham-'nun-ah Sabah (the old) [the fish in Aramaic or Chaldee is *nun* (noon)], thou art the Son of the Light of the Torah [Dharma], etc."<sup>2</sup>

Then the author explains that the feminine Sephira, *Binah*, is termed by the Kabalists the Great Sea: therefore *Binah*, whose divine names are Jehovah, *Yah*, and *Elohim*, is simply the Chaldean *Tiamat*, the Female Power, the *Thalath* of Berossus, who presides over the Chaos, and was made out later by Christian Theology to be the Serpent and the Devil. She-He (Yah-hovah) is the supernal Hé, and Eve. This Yah-hovah then, or Jehovah, is identical with our Chaos—Father, Mother, Son—on the material plane, and in the purely physical World; *Deus* and *Demon*, at one and the same time; the sun and moon, good and evil, God and Demon.

Lunar magnetism generates life, preserves and destroys it, psychically as well as physically. And if, astronomically, the Moon is one of the seven planets of the ancient world, in Theogony she is one of the Regents thereof—with Christians now as much as with Pagans, the former referring to her under the name of one of their Archangels, and the latter under that of one of their Gods.

<sup>1</sup> P. 23

<sup>2</sup> Myer's *Qabbalah*, 335-6

Therefore the meaning of the "fairy tale," translated by Chwolsohn from the Arabic translation of an old Chaldean MS., of Qû-tâmy being instructed by the *idol* of the Moon, is easily understood. Seldenus tells us the secret, as well as Maimonides in his *Guide to the Perplexed*.<sup>1</sup> The worshippers of the *Teraphim* (the Jewish Oracles), "carved images, and claimed that the light of the principal stars [planets] permeating these through and through, the Angelic VIRTUES [or the Regents of the stars and planets] conversed with them, teaching them many most useful things and arts." And Seldenus explains that the *Teraphim* were built and composed after the position of certain planets, those which the Greeks called *στοιχεῖα* [the elements], and according to figures that were located in the sky, and called *ἀλεξητήριοι* [the defenders], or the *tutelary* Gods. Those who traced out the *στοιχεῖα* were called *στοιχειωματικοί*, or diviners by the *στοιχεῖα*.<sup>2</sup>

It is such sentences, however, in the *Nabathean Agriculture*, which have frightened the men of Science, and made them proclaim the work "either an *apocryphon*, or a fairy tale, unworthy of the notice of an Academician." At the same time, as shown, zealous Roman Catholics and Protestants metaphorically tore it to pieces; the former because "it described the worship of demons," the latter because it was "ungodly." Once more, all are wrong. It is not a fairy tale; and, as far as pious Churchmen are concerned, the same worship may be shown in their Scriptures, however disfigured by translation. Solar and Lunar worship, and also the worship of the Stars and Elements can be traced, and figure in Christian Theology. These are defended by Papists, and can be stoutly denied by the Protestants only at their own risk and peril. Two instances may be given.

Ammianus Marcellinus teaches that ancient divinations were always accomplished with the help of the Spirits of the Elements (*Spiritus Elementorum*, and in Greek, *πνεύματα τῶν στοιχείων*)<sup>3</sup>

But it is found now that the Planets, the Elements, and the Zodiac, were figured not only at Heliopolis by the twelve stones called "mysteries of the elements" (*elementorum arcana*), but also in Solomon's Temple, and, as pointed out by various writers, in several old Italian churches and even at *Notre Dame de Paris*, where they can be seen to this day.

No symbol, the Sun included, was more complex in its manifold meanings than the lunar symbol. The sex was, of course, dual. With some it was male, as, for instance, the Hindu "King Soma," and the Chaldean *Sin*, with other nations it was female, the beauteous goddesses Diana-Luna, Ilithyia [the

<sup>1</sup> *Moreh Nebhuchim*, III, xxx

<sup>2</sup> See *De Diis Syriis*, *Teraph*, II, Synt, p. 31

<sup>3</sup> I, i, 21

gracious or propitious goddess], Lucina. With the Tauri, human victims were sacrificed to Artemis, a form of the lunar goddess ; the Cretans called her Dictynna, and the Medes and Persians Anatis, as shown by an inscription of Koloe. Ἀρτέμιδι Ἀνάειτι [Artemis or Diana the upholder]. But, we are now concerned chiefly with the most chaste and pure of the virgin goddesses, Luna-Artemis, to whom Pamphos was the first to give the surname of Καλλίστη [the most beautiful], and of whom Euripides, in the *Hippolytus* wrote : Καλλίστα πολὺ παρθένων [most beautiful of many maidens]<sup>1</sup> This Artemis-Lochia, the Goddess that presided at conception and child-birth (*Iliad*, Pausanias, etc.) is, in her functions and as the triple Hecate, the Orphic Deity, the predecessor of the God of the Rabbins and pre-Christian Kabalists, and his lunar type. The Goddess Τρίμορφος [triple formed] was the personified symbol of the various and successive aspects represented by the Moon in each of her three phases ; and this interpretation was already that of the Stoics,<sup>2</sup> while the Orpheans explained the epithet Τρίμορφος by the three kingdoms of Nature over which she reigned. Jealous, blood-thirsty, revengeful and exacting, Hecate-Luna is a worthy counterpart of the "jealous God" of the Hebrew prophets.

The whole riddle of the Solar and Lunar worship, as now traced in the churches, hangs indeed on this world-old mystery of lunar phenomena. The correlative forces in the "Queen of Night," that lie latent for Modern Science, but are fully active to the knowledge of Eastern Adepts, explain well the thousand and one images under which the Moon was represented by the Ancients. It also shows how much more profoundly learned in the Selenic Mysteries were the Ancients than are now our modern Astronomers. The whole Pantheon of the lunar gods and goddesses, Nephtys or Neith, Proserpina, Melitta, Cybele, Isis, Astarte, Venus, and Hecate, on the one hand, and Apollo, Dionysus, Adonis, Bacchus, Osiris, Atys, Thammuz, etc., on the other, all show on the face of their names and titles—those of "Sons" and "Husbands" of their "Mothers"—their identity with the Christian Trinity. In every religious system, the Gods were made to merge their functions, as Father, Son, and Husband, into one, and the Goddesses were identified as Wife, Mother, and Sister of the male God ; the former synthesizing the human attributes as the "Sun, the Giver of Life," the latter merging all the other titles in the grand synthesis known as Maia, Mâyâ, Maria, etc., a generic name. Maia, in its forced derivation, has come to mean with the Greeks, "Mother," from the root *ma* (nurse), and even gave its name to the month of May, which was sacred to all these goddesses before it became consecrated

<sup>1</sup> See Pausanias, viii, 35-8.

<sup>2</sup> Cornutus, *De Natura Deorum*, xxxiv, 1



to Mary.<sup>1</sup> Its primitive meaning, however, was *Mâyâ*, *Durgâ*, translated by the Orientalists as "inaccessible," but meaning in truth the "*unreachable*," in the sense of illusion and unreality, as being the source and cause of spells, the personification of *illusion*.

In religious rites, the Moon served a dual purpose. Personified as a female goddess for exoteric purposes, or as a male god in allegory and symbol, in Occult Philosophy our satellite was regarded as a sexless Potency to be well studied, because it was to be dreaded. With the initiated Âryans, Khaldii [Chaldeans], Greeks and Romans, Soma, Sin, Artemis Soteira (the hermaphrodite Apollo, whose attribute is the lyre, and the bearded Diana of the bow and arrow), *Deus Lunus*, and especially Osiris-Lunus and Thot-Lunus,<sup>2</sup> were the occult potencies of the Moon. But whether male or female, whether Thot or Minerva, Soma or Astoreth, the Moon is the Occult mystery of mysteries, and more a symbol of evil than of good. Her seven phases, in the original esoteric division, are divided into three astronomical phenomena and four purely psychic phases. That the Moon was not always revered is shown in the Mysteries, in which the death of the Moon-God—the three phases of gradual waning and final disappearance—was allegorized by the Moon standing for the *genius of evil* that, for the time, triumphs over the light and life-giving god, the Sun; and all the skill and learning of the ancient Hierophants in Magic were required to turn this triumph into a defeat.

It was the most ancient worship of all, that of the *Third Race* of our Round, the Hermaphrodites, in which the *male* Moon became sacred, when, after the so-called "Fall," the sexes had become separated. "*Deus Lunus*" then became an androgyne, male and female in turn; to serve finally, for *purposes of sorcery*, as a dual power for the *Fourth Root Race*, the Atlanteans. With the *Fifth*, our own Race, the lunar-solar worship divided the nations into two distinct, antagonistic camps. It led to events described æons later in the Mahâbhâratan War, which to the Europeans is the *fabulous*, to the Hindus and Occultists the historical, strife between the *Sûryavamshas* and the *Induvamshas*. Originating in the dual aspect of the Moon, the worship of the female and the male principles respectively, it ended in distinct Solar and Lunar cults. Among the Semitic races, the Sun was for a very long time *feminine* and the Moon masculine; the latter notion being adopted by them from the Atlantean traditions. The Moon was called the "Lord of the Sun," Bel-Shemesh, before the Shemesh worship.

<sup>1</sup> The Roman Catholics are indebted for the idea of consecrating the month of May to the Virgin to the pagan Plutarch, who shows that "May is sacred to Maïa (*Maïa*) or Vesta" (*Aulus Gellius*, *sub voc.* Maïa), our mother-earth, our nurse and nourisher, personified

<sup>2</sup> Thot-Lunus is the "Budha-Soma" of India, or "Mercury and the Moon."

The ignorance of the incipient reasons for such a distinction, and of occult principles, led the nations into anthropomorphic idol-worship. [During that period which is absent from the Mosaic books, viz., from the exile from Eden to the allegorical Flood, the Jews, with the rest of the Semites, worshipped Dayanisi,<sup>1</sup> דַּיָּאנִישִׁי, the “Ruler of Men,” the “Judge,” or the SUN. Though the Jewish canon and Christianity have made the Sun to become the “Lord God” and “Jehovah” in the *Bible*, yet the same *Bible* is full of indiscreet traces of the androgyne Deity, which was Jehovah, the Sun, and Astoreth, the Moon in its female aspect, and quite free from the present metaphorical element given to it. God is a “consuming fire,” appears *in*, and “is encompassed by fire.” It was not only in vision that Ezekiel saw the Jews “worshipping the Sun.”<sup>2</sup> The Baal of the Israelites—the Shemesh of the Moabites and the Moloch of the Ammonites—was the identical “Sun-Jehovah,” and he is till now the “King of the Host of Heaven,” the Sun, as much as Astoreth was the “Queen of Heaven,” or the Moon. The “Sun of Righteousness” has only now become a *metaphorical* expression.] But the religion of every ancient nation had been primarily based upon the Occult manifestations of a purely abstract Force or Principle now called “God.” The very establishment of such worship shows, in its details and rites, that the philosophers who evolved such systems of Nature, subjective and objective, possessed profound knowledge, and were acquainted with many facts of a scientific nature. For besides being purely Occult, the rites of Lunar worship were based, as just shown, upon a knowledge of Physiology—quite a modern science with us—Psychology, sacred Mathematics, Geometry and Metrology, in their right applications to symbols and figures, which are but glyphs recording observed natural and scientific facts, in short upon a most minute and profound knowledge of Nature. Lunar magnetism generates life, preserves and kills it. Soma embodies the triple power of the *Trimûrti*, though it remains unrecognized by the profane to this day. The allegory that makes Soma, the Moon, produced by the Churning of the *Ocean of Life* (Space) by the Gods in another Manvantara, that is, in the pre-genetic day of our Planetary System, and the myth<sup>3</sup> which represents “the Rishis milking the Earth, whose calf was Soma, the Moon,” have a deep cosmographical meaning; for it is neither our Earth which is milked, nor was the Moon which we know, the calf.<sup>4</sup> Had our wise men of Science, known as much of the

<sup>1</sup> Dayaneesh<sup>2</sup> Ezekiel, viii, 16<sup>3</sup> That other allegory—in the 1888 edition

<sup>4</sup> The Earth flees for her life, in the allegory, before Prithu, who pursues her. She assumes the shape of a cow, and, trembling with terror, runs away and hides even in the regions of Brahṃā. Therefore, it is not our Earth. Again, in every *Purāṇa*, the calf changes name. In one it is Manu Svayambhuva, in another Indra, in a third the Himavat (Himālayas) itself, while Meru was the milker. This is a deeper allegory than one may be inclined to think.

mysteries of Nature as the ancient Âryans did, they would surely never have imagined that the Moon was projected from the Earth. Once more, the oldest of permutations in Theogony, the Son becoming his own Father and the Mother generated by the Son, has to be remembered and taken into consideration if the symbolical language of the Ancients is to be understood by us. Otherwise mythology will be ever haunting the Orientalists as simply "the disease which springs up at a peculiar stage of human culture!"—as Renouf gravely observes in a Hibbert Lecture.

The Ancients taught the auto-generation, so to speak, of the Gods: the One Divine Essence, *unmanifested*, perpetually begetting a Second-Self, *manifested*, which Second-Self, androgynous in its nature, *gives birth, in an immaculate way*, to everything macrocosmical and microcosmical in this Universe. This was shown in the Circle and the Diameter, or the Sacred Ten (10), a few pages back.

But our Orientalists, notwithstanding their extreme desire to discover one homogeneous *Element* in Nature, *will not see it*. Cramped in their researches by such ignorance, the Âryanists and Egyptologists are constantly led astray from truth in their speculations. Thus, de Rougé is unable to understand, in the text which he translates, the meaning of Ammon-Ra saying to King Amenophes, who is supposed to be Memnon: "Thou art my Son, I have begotten thee." And, finding the same idea in many a text and under various forms, this very Christian Orientalist is finally compelled to exclaim:

For this idea to have entered the mind of a hierogrammatist, there must have been in their religion a more or less defined doctrine, *indicating as a possible fact that might come to pass, a divine and immaculate incarnation under a human form*

Precisely. But why throw the explanation on to an impossible prophecy, when the whole secret is explained by the later religion copying the earlier?

This doctrine was universal, and it was not the mind of any one hierogrammatist that evolved it; for the Indian *Avatâras* are a proof to the contrary. After which, having come "to realize more clearly"<sup>1</sup> what the "Divine Father and Son" were with the Egyptians, de Rougé still fails to account for, and to perceive what were the functions attributed to, the *feminine Principle* in that primordial generation. He does not find it in the Goddess Neith, of Saïs. Yet he quotes the sentence of the Commander to Cambyses, when introducing that king into the Saïtic temple: "I made known to his Majesty the dignity of Saïs, which is the abode of Neith, the great [female] producer, *genitrix of the Sun*, who is the *first-born*, and who is not

<sup>1</sup> His clear realization is, that the Egyptians prophesied Jehovah (!) and his incarnated Redeemer (the good serpent), etc., even to identifying Typhon with the wicked dragon of the garden of Eden. And this passes as serious and sober science!

*begotten, but only brought forth*”—and hence is the fruit of an *Immaculate Mother*.

How much more grandiose, philosophical and poetical—for whoever is able to understand and appreciate it—is the real distinction made between the *immaculate virgin* of the ancient Pagans and the modern Papal conception. With the former, the ever-youthful Mother Nature, the antitype of her prototypes, the Sun and Moon, *generates and brings forth* her “mind-born” Son, the Universe. The Sun and Moon, as male-female deities, fructify the Earth, the microcosmical Mother, and the latter conceives and brings forth, in her turn. With the Christians, the “First-born” (*primogenitus*) is indeed generated, i.e., begotten (*genitus, non factus*, begotten, not made), and positively *conceived and brought forth*: “*Virgo pariet* [a Virgin shall bring forth],” explains the Latin Church. Thus does that Church drag down the noble spiritual ideal of the Virgin Mary to the earth, and, making her “of the earth earthy,” degrades the ideal she portrays to the lowest of the anthropomorphic goddesses of the rabble.

Truly, Neith, Isis, Diana, etc., by whatever name she was called, was “a demiurgical Goddess, at once visible and invisible, having her place in Heaven, and *helping on the generation of species*”—the Moon, in short. Her occult aspects and powers are numberless, and, in one of them, the Moon becomes with the Egyptians Hathor, another aspect of Isis,<sup>1</sup> and both of these Goddesses are shown suckling Horus. Behold in the Egyptian Hall of the British Museum, Hathor worshipped by Pharaoh Thotmes, who stands between her and the Lord of Heavens. The monolith was taken from Karnac. The same Goddess has the following legend inscribed on her throne: “THE DIVINE MOTHER AND LADY, OR QUEEN OF HEAVEN”, also the “MORNING STAR,” and the “LIGHT OF THE SEA”—*Stella Matutina* and *Lux Maris*. All the lunar goddesses had a dual aspect; one *divine*, the other *infernal*. All were the Virgin Mothers of an *immaculately* born Son—the Sun. Raoul Rochette shows the Moon-Goddess of the Athenians, Pallas, or Cybele, Minerva, or again Diana, holding her child-son on her lap, invoked in her festivals as *Μονογενῆς Θεοῦ* [Only-begotten of God], the “One Mother of God,” sitting on a lion, and surrounded by twelve personages; in whom the Occultist recognizes the twelve great Gods, and the pious Christian Orientalist the Apostles, or rather the Grecian Pagan prophecy thereof.

They are both right, for the *Immaculate goddess* of the Latin Church is a faithful copy of the older pagan goddesses, the number (twelve) of the Apostles is that of the twelve Tribes, and the latter are a personification of

<sup>1</sup> Hathor is the *infernal* Isis, the goddess pre-eminently of the West or the *nether* world.

the twelve great Gods, and of the twelve Signs of the Zodiac. Almost every detail in the Christian dogma is borrowed from the Heathens. Semele, the wife of Jupiter and Mother of Bacchus, the Sun, is, according to Nonnus, also "carried," or made to ascend to Heaven after her death, where she presides between Mars and Venus, under the name of the "Queen of the World," or the Universe, [πανβασίλεια], "at the names of which," as at the names of Hathor, Hecate, and other infernal Goddesses, "all the demons tremble."<sup>1</sup>

"Σεμέλην τρέμουνσι δαίμονες. [The demons flee from Semele]." This Greek inscription on a small temple, reproduced on a stone that was found by Beger, and copied by Montfaucon, as De Mirville tells us, informs us of the stupendous fact, that the Magna Mater of the old world was an impudent "plagiarism" of the Immaculate Virgin Mother of his Church, perpetrated by the Demon. Whether so, or vice versa, is of no importance. That which is interesting to note is the perfect identity between the *archaic copy* and the *modern original*.

Did space permit we might show the inconceivable coolness and unconcern exhibited by certain followers of the Roman Catholic Church, when they are made to face the revelations of the Past. To Maury's remark that "the Virgin took possession of all the Sanctuaries of Ceres and Venus, and that the Pagan rites, proclaimed and practised in honour of those Goddesses, were in a great measure transferred to the Mother of Christ,"<sup>2</sup> the advocate of Rome answers, that such is the fact, and that it is just as it should be, and quite natural.

As the dogma, the liturgy, and the rites professed by the Roman Apostolical Church in 1862 are found engraved on monuments, inscribed on papyri, and cylinders hardly posterior to the Deluge, it does seem impossible to deny the existence of a first ante-historical [Roman] Catholicism of which our own is but the faithful continuation

[But while the former was the culmination, the "summum of the impudence of demons and goetic necromancy" the latter is divine] If in our [Christian] Revelation [l'Apocalypse], Mary, clothed with the Sun and having the Moon under her feet, has no longer anything in common with the humble servant [servante] of Nazareth [sic], it is because she has now become the greatest of theological and cosmological powers in our universe<sup>3</sup>

Verily so, since Pindar thus sings of her "assumption". "She sits at the right hand of her Father [Jupiter], . . . and is more powerful than all the other (Angels or) Gods"<sup>4</sup>—a hymn likewise applied to the Virgin. St. Bernard also, quoted by Cornelius à Lapide, is made to address the Virgin Mary in this wise: "The Sun-Christ lives in thee and thou livest in him."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is from De Mirville, who proudly confesses the similarity, and he ought to know See "Archéologie de la Vierge Mère," in his *Des Esprits*, Tome III pp 111-3

<sup>2</sup> Magie, p 153

<sup>3</sup> De Mirville, *Ibid*, pp. 116 and 119

<sup>4</sup> Hymns to Minerva, p 19

<sup>5</sup> Pindar, *Sermon sur la Sainte Vierge*

Again the Virgin is admitted to be the Moon by the same unsophisticated holy man. Being the *Lucina* of the Church, in childbirth the verse of Virgil, "*Casta fave Lucina, tuus jam regnat Apollo*,"<sup>1</sup> [Be gracious, O chaste Lucina, thine own Apollo is now king], is applied to her. "Like the Moon, the Virgin is the Queen of Heaven," adds the innocent saint.<sup>2</sup>

This settles the question. According to such writers as De Mirville, the more similarity there exists between the Pagan conceptions and the Christian dogmas, the more divine appears the Christian religion, and the more is it seen to be the only truly inspired one, especially in its Roman Catholic form. The unbelieving Scientists and Academicians who think they see in the Latin Church quite the opposite of divine inspiration, and who will not believe in the Satanic tricks of plagiarism by anticipation, are severely taken to task. But then "they believe in nothing and reject even the *Nabathean Agriculture* as a romance and a pack of superstitious nonsense," complains the memorialist. "In their perverted opinion Qû-tâmý's 'idol of the Moon' and the statue of the Madonna are one!" A noble Marquis, [J.E.de Mirville] twenty-five years ago, wrote six huge volumes, or, as he calls them "*Mémoires to the French Academy*," with the sole object of proving Roman Catholicism to be an inspired and revealed faith. As a proof thereof, he furnishes numberless facts, all tending to show that the entire Ancient World, ever since the Deluge, had, with the help of the devil, been systematically plagiarizing the rites, ceremonies, and dogmas of the future Holy Church, which was to be born ages later. What would that faithful son of Rome have said had he heard his co-religionist, M Renouf, the distinguished Egyptologist of the British Museum, declaring in one of his learned lectures, that neither "Hebrews nor Greeks borrowed any of their ideas from Egypt"?<sup>3</sup>

But perhaps M. Renouf intended to say that it was the Egyptians, the Greeks, and the Âryans, who borrowed their ideas from the Latin Church? And if so, why, in the name of logic, do the Papists reject the additional information which the Occultists may give them on Moon-worship, since it all tends to show that the worship of the Roman Catholic Church is as old as the world—of *SABÆANISM AND ASTROLATRY*?

The reason of early Christian and later Roman Catholic Astrolatry, or the symbolical worship of Sun and Moon, a worship identical with that of the Gnostics, though less philosophical and pure than the "Sun-worship" of the Zoroastrians, is a natural consequence of its birth and origin. The adoption by the Latin Church of such symbols as water, fire, sun, moon and stars, and

<sup>1</sup> Verg Ec iv, 10<sup>2</sup> Apoc , Ch xii<sup>3</sup> Quoted in Mr G Massey's Lecture

many others, is simply a continuation by the early Christians of the old worship of Pagan nations. Thus, Odin got his wisdom, power, and knowledge, by sitting at the feet of Mimir, the thrice-wise Jotun, who passed his life by the fountain of primeval Wisdom, the crystalline Waters of which increased his knowledge daily. "Mimir drew the highest knowledge from the fountain, because the world was born of water; hence primeval wisdom was to be found in that mysterious element." The eye which Odin had to pledge to acquire that knowledge may be "the sun, which enlightens and penetrates all things; his other eye is the moon, whose reflection gazes out of the deep, and which at last, when setting, sinks into the ocean."<sup>1</sup> But it is something more than this. Loki, the Fire-God, is said to have hidden in the water, as well as in the Moon, the light-giver, whose reflection he found therein. This belief that the Fire finds refuge in the water was not limited to the old Scandinavians. It was shared by all nations and was finally adopted by the early Christians, who symbolized the Holy Ghost under the shape of Fire, "cloven tongues like as of fire"—the breath of the Father-SUN. This "Fire" descends also into the Water, or the Sea—*Mare*, Mary. The Dove was the symbol of the Soul with several nations; it was sacred to Venus, the goddess born from the sea-foam, and it became later the symbol of the Christian *Anima Mundi*, or Holy Spirit.

One of the most occult chapters in the *Book of the Dead* is that entitled, "The transformation into the God giving Light to the path of Darkness," wherein "Woman-Light of the Shadow" serves Thot in his retreat in the Moon. Thot-Hermes is said to hide therein, because he is the representative of the Secret Wisdom. He is the manifested Logos of its light side; the concealed Deity or "Dark Wisdom" when he is supposed to retire to the opposite hemisphere. Speaking of her power, the Moon calls herself repeatedly: "The Light which shineth in Darkness," the "Woman-Light." Hence it became the accepted symbol of all the Virgin-Mother goddesses. As the wicked "evil" Spirits warred against the Moon in days of yore, so they are supposed to war now, without, however, being able to prevail against the actual Queen of Heaven, Mary, the Moon. Hence, also, the Moon was intimately connected in all the Pagan Theogonies with the Dragon, her eternal enemy. The Virgin, or Madonna, stands on the mythical Satan thus symbolized, who lies crushed and powerless, under her feet. This, because the head and tail of the Dragon, which, to this day in Eastern Astronomy, represent the ascending and descending nodes of the Moon, were also symbolized in ancient Greece by the two serpents. Hercules kills them on the day of his birth, and

<sup>1</sup> Wagner and McDowall, *Asgard and the Gods*, p. 86.

so does the Babe in his Virgin-Mother's arms. As Mr. Gerald Massey aptly observes in this connection :

All such symbols figured their own facts from the first, and did not pre-figure others of a totally different order. The iconography [and dogmas, too] had survived in Rome from a period remotely pre-Christian *There was neither forgery nor interpolation of types ; nothing but a continuity of imagery with a perversion of its meaning.*



## SECTION 10

### TREE, SERPENT, AND CROCODILE WORSHIP

Object of horror or of adoration, men have for the serpent an implacable hatred, or prostrate themselves before its genius. Lie calls it, Prudence claims it, Envy carries it in its heart, and Eloquence on its caduceus. In hell it arms the whip of the Furies, in heaven Eternity makes of it its symbol.

De Châteaubriand

THE Ophites asserted that there were several kinds of Genii, from God to man, that the relative superiority of these was decided by the degree of Light that was accorded to each, and they maintained that the Serpent had to be constantly called upon and to be thanked for the signal service it had rendered humanity. For it taught Adam that if he ate of the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, he would raise his Being immensely by the learning and wisdom he would thus acquire. Such was the exoteric reason given.

It is easy to see whence is the primal idea of the dual, Janus-like character of the Serpent—the good and the bad. This symbol is one of the most ancient, because the reptile preceded the bird, and the bird the mammal. Hence the belief, or rather the superstition, of the savage tribes who think that the souls of their ancestors live under this form, and the general association of the Serpent with the Tree. The legends about the various meanings it represents are numberless; but, as most of them are allegorical, they have now passed into the class of fables based on ignorance and dark superstition. For instance, when Philostratus narrates that the natives of India and Arabia fed on the heart and liver of Serpents in order to learn the language of all the animals, the Serpent being credited with that faculty, he certainly never meant his words to be accepted literally.<sup>1</sup> As will be found more than once as we proceed, “Serpent” and “Dragon” were names given to the “Wise Ones,” the Initiated Adepts of olden times. It was their wisdom and their learning that were devoured or assimilated by their followers, whence the allegory. When the Scandinavian Sigurd is fabled to have

<sup>1</sup> See *De Vita Apollonii*, I, xiv.

roasted the heart of Fafnir, the Dragon, whom he had slain, and thence to have become the wisest of men, the meaning is the same. Sigurd had become learned in the runes and magical charms; he had received the "Word" from an Initiate of the name of Fafnir, or from a sorcerer, after which the latter died, as do many, after "passing the word." Epiphanius lets out a secret of the Gnostics in trying to expose their *heresies*. The Gnostic Ophites, he says, had a reason for honouring the Serpent. *it was because he taught the primeval men the Mysteries.*<sup>1</sup> Verily so; but they did not have Adam and Eve in the Garden in their minds when teaching this dogma, but simply that which is stated above. The *Nâgas* of the Hindu and Tibetan Adepts were human *Nâgas* (Serpents), not reptiles. Moreover, the Serpent has ever been the type of consecutive or serial rejuvenation, of IMMORTALITY and TIME

The numerous and extremely interesting readings, the interpretations and facts about Serpent worship, given in Mr Gerald Massey's *Natural Genesis*, are very ingenious and scientifically correct. But they are far from covering the *whole* of the meanings implied. They divulge only the astronomical and physiological mysteries, with the addition of some cosmic phenomena. On the lowest plane of materiality, the Serpent was, no doubt, the "great emblem of Mystery in the Mysteries," and was, very likely, adopted as a type of feminine pubescence, on account of its sloughing and self-renewal." It was so, however, only with regard to mysteries concerning terrestrial *animal* life, for as "the symbol of *re-clothing* and *re-birth* in the [universal] Mysteries, its final phase,"<sup>2</sup> or shall we rather say its incipient and culminating phases, was not of this plane. These phases were generated in the pure realm of Ideal Light, and having accomplished the round of the whole cycle of adaptations and symbolism, the "Mysteries" returned from whence they had come, into the essence of *immaterial* causality. They belonged to the highest Gnosis. And surely this could never have obtained its name and fame solely on account of its penetration into physiological and especially feminine functions!

As a symbol, the Serpent had as many aspects and occult meanings as the Tree itself; the "Tree of Life," with which it was emblematically and almost indissolubly connected. Whether viewed as metaphysical or a physical symbol, the Tree and Serpent, jointly, or separately, have never been so degraded by antiquity as they are now, in this our age of the breaking of idols, not for truth's sake, but to glorify the most gross matter. The revelations and interpretations in General Forlong's *Rivers of Life* would have astounded the worshippers of the Tree and Serpent in the days of archaic

<sup>1</sup> *Adv. Hæres.* xxxvii

<sup>2</sup> See Gerald Massey, *The Natural Genesis*, 1, p. 340 (1883)

Chaldean and Egyptian wisdom ; and even the early Shaivas would have recoiled in horror at the theories and suggestions of the author of the said work. "The notion of Payne Knight and Inman that the Cross or Tau is simply a copy of the male organs in a triadic form is radically false," writes Mr. G. Massey, who proves what he says. But this is a statement that could be as justly applied to almost all the modern interpretations of ancient symbols. *The Natural Genesis*, a monumental work of research and thought, the most complete on that subject that has ever been published, covering as it does a wider field, and explaining much more than all the Symbologists who have hitherto written, does not yet go beyond the "psycho-theistic" stage of ancient thought. Nor were Payne Knight and Inman altogether wrong ; except in entirely failing to see that their interpretations of the "Tree of Life," as the Cross and Phallus, fitted the symbol only in the lowest and latest stage of evolutionary development of the idea of the GIVER OF LIFE. It was the last and the grossest physical transformation of Nature, in animal, insect, bird and even plant ; for bi-une, creative magnetism, in the form of the attraction of contraries, or sexual polarization, acts in the constitution of reptile and bird as it does in that of man. Moreover, the modern Symbologists and Orientalists, from first to last, being ignorant of the real Mysteries revealed by Occultism, can necessarily see but this last stage. If told that this mode of procreation, which the whole world of being has now in common on this Earth, is but a passing phase, a physical means of furnishing the conditions to and producing the phenomena of life, and that it will alter with this and disappear with the next Root-Race, they would laugh at such a superstitious and unscientific idea. But the most learned Occultists assert this because *they know it*. The universe of living beings, all those which procreate their species, is the living witness to the various modes of procreation in the evolution of animal and human species and races, and the Naturalist ought to sense this truth intuitionally, even though he is yet unable to demonstrate it. How could he, indeed, with the present modes of thought ! The landmarks of the archaic history of the Past are few and scarce, and those that men of Science come across are mistaken for fingerposts of our little era. Even so-called "universal (?) history" embraces but a tiny field in the almost boundless space of the unexplored regions of our latest, Fifth, Root-Race. Hence, every fresh sign-post, every new glyph of the hoary Past that is discovered, is added to the old stock of information, to be interpreted on the same lines of pre-existing conceptions, and without any reference to the special cycle of thought which that particular glyph may belong to. How can Truth ever come to light if this method is never changed !

Thus, in the beginning of their joint existence as a glyph of Immortal Being, the Tree and Serpent were divine imagery, truly. The Tree was *reversed*, and its roots were generated in Heaven and grew out of the Rootless Root of All-Being. Its trunk grew and developed, crossing the planes of the Pleroma, it shot out crossways its luxuriant branches, first on the plane of hardly differentiated matter, and then downward till they touched the terrestrial plane. Thus, the Ashvattha Tree of Life and Being, whose destruction alone leads to immortality, is said in the *Bhagavad Gîtâ* to grow with its roots above and its branches below.<sup>1</sup> The roots represent the Supreme Being, or First Cause, the LOGOS, but one has to go beyond those roots to *unite oneself with Krishna*, who, says Arjuna, is "greater than Brahman, and First Cause . . . the indestructible, that which is, that which is not, and what is beyond them."<sup>2</sup> Its boughs are Hiranyagarbha (Brahmâ or Brahman in its highest manifestations, say Shrivhara Svâmin and Madhusûdana), the highest Dhyân Chohans or Devas. The *Vedas* are its leaves. He only who goes *beyond* the roots shall never return; i.e., shall re-incarnate no more during this "Age" of Brahmâ.

It was only when its pure boughs had touched the terrestrial mud of the Garden of Eden, of our Adamic Race, that this Tree became soiled by the contact and lost its pristine purity; and that the Serpent of Eternity, the Heaven-Born LOGOS, was finally degraded. In days of old, of the *divine Dynasties* on Earth, the now dreaded reptile was regarded as the first beam of light that radiated from the abyss of divine Mystery. Various were the forms which it was made to assume, and numerous the natural symbols adapted to it, as it crossed the æons of Time, as from Infinite Time (Kâla) itself it fell into the space and time evolved out of human speculation. These forms were Cosmic and astronomical, theistic and pantheistic, abstract and concrete. They became in turn the Polar Dragon and the Southern Cross, the *Alpha Draconis* of the Pyramid, and the Hindu-Buddhist Dragon, which ever threatens, yet never swallows the Sun during its eclipses. Till then, the Tree remained ever green, for it was sprinkled by the Waters of Life; the great Dragon remained ever divine, so long as it was kept within the precincts of the sidereal fields. But the Tree grew and its lower boughs at last touched the infernal regions—our Earth. Then the great serpent Nidhogg—he who devours the corpses of the evil-doers in the "Hall of Misery" (human life), so soon as they are plunged into "Hwergelmir," the roaring cauldron (of human passions)—gnawed the reversed World-Tree. The worms of materiality covered the once healthy and mighty roots, and are now ascending higher and higher along the trunk; while the Midgard-Snake, coiled at the bottom of the Seas,

<sup>1</sup> Discourse xv, v 1, 2

<sup>2</sup> Discourse xi, v 37.

encircles the Earth, and, through its venomous breath, makes her powerless to defend herself.

The Dragons and Serpents of antiquity are all seven-headed—"one head for each Race, and every head with seven hairs on it," as the allegory has it. Aye, from Ananta, the Serpent of Eternity, which carries Vishnu through the Manvantara, from the original primordial Shesha, whose seven heads become "one thousand heads" in the Purāṇic fancy, down to the seven-headed Akkadian Serpent. This typifies the Seven Principles throughout Nature and in man, the highest or *middle* head being the seventh. It is not of the Mosaic, Jewish Sabbath that Philo speaks, in his *Creation of the World*, when saying that the world was completed "according to the perfect nature of number 6." For .

*When that reason [nous] which is holy in accordance with the number 7, has entered the soul [the living body rather], the number 6 is thus arrested and all the mortal things which that number makes*

And again

Number 7 is the festival day of all the earth, the *birthday of the world* I know not whether any one would be able to celebrate the number 7 in adequate terms <sup>1</sup>

The author of *The Natural Genesis* thinks that .

The septenary of stars seen in the Great Bear [the Saptarishis] and seven-headed Dragon furnished a visible origin for the symbolic seven of time above. The goddess of the seven stars was the mother of time, as Kep, whence Kepti and Sebti for the two times and number 7. So this is the star of the Seven by name. Sevekḥ (Kronos), the son of the goddess, has the name of the seven or seventh. So has Sefekh Abu who builds the house on high, as Wisdom (Sophia) built hers with seven pillars. The primary kronotypes were seven, and thus the 'beginning of time in heaven is based on the number and the name of seven, on account of the starry demonstrators. The seven stars as they turned round annually kept pointing, as it were, with the forefinger of the right hand, and describing a circle in the upper and lower heaven' <sup>2</sup>. The number 7 naturally suggested a measure by seven, that led to what may be termed *Sevening*, and to the marking and mapping out of the circle in seven corresponding divisions which were assigned to the seven great constellations, and thus was formed the celestial heptanomis of Egypt in the heavens.

When the stellar heptanomis was broken up and divided into four quarters, it was multiplied by four, and twenty-eight signs took the place of the primary seven constellations, the lunar zodiac of twenty-eight signs being the registered result of reckoning twenty-eight days to the moon, or a lunar month <sup>3</sup>. In the Chinese arrangement, the four sevens are given to four Genii that preside over the four cardinal points, <sup>4</sup> or rather the seven northern constellations make up the Black Warrior, the

<sup>1</sup> *De Mundi Opif*, Par., pp. 30 and 419

<sup>2</sup> For the same reason the division of the principles in man into seven is thus reckoned, as they describe the same circle in the higher and lower human nature.

<sup>3</sup> Thus the septenary division is the oldest and preceded the four-fold division. It is the root of archaic classification.

<sup>4</sup> In Chinese Buddhism and Esotericism, the Genii are represented by four Dragons—the Mahā-rājas of the STANZAS.

seven eastern (Chinese autumn) constitute the White Tiger, the seven southern are the Vermilion Bird, and the seven western (called vernal) are the Azure Dragon. Each of these four spirits presides over its heptanomis during one lunar week. The genitrix of the first heptanomis (Typhon of the seven stars) now took a lunar character. In this phase we find the goddess Sefekh, whose name signifies number 7, is the feminine word, or logos in place of the mother of time, who was the earlier *Word*, as goddess of the Seven Stars.<sup>1</sup>

The author shows that it was the goddess of the Great Bear and Mother of Time who was in Egypt from the earliest times the "Living Word," and that Sevekh-Kronos, whose type was the Crocodile-Dragon, the pre-planetary form of Saturn, was called her son and consort; he was her Word-Logos.<sup>2</sup>

The above is quite plain, but it was not the knowledge of astronomy only that led the Ancients to the process of *Sevening*. The primal cause goes far deeper and will be explained in its place.

The above quotations are no digressions. They are brought forward as showing (a) the reason why a full Initiate was called a "Dragon," a "Snake," a "Nâga," and (b) that our septenary division was used by the priests of the earliest dynasties in Egypt, for the same reason, and on the same basis, as by us. This needs further elucidation, however. As already stated, what Mr. Gerald Massey calls the Four Genii of the four cardinal points, and the Chinese, the Black Warrior, White Tiger, Vermilion Bird, and Azure Dragon, are called in the Secret Books, the "Four Hidden Dragons of Wisdom" and the "Celestial Nâgas." Now, the seven-headed or septenary *Dragon-Logos* is shown to have, in course of time, been split up, so to speak, into four heptanomic parts or twenty-eight portions. Each week has a distinct occult character in the lunar month, each day of the twenty-eight has its special characteristics; for each of the twelve constellations, whether separately or in combination with other signs, has an occult influence either for good or for evil. This represents the sum of knowledge that men can acquire on this earth; yet few are those who acquire it, and still fewer are the wise men who get to the root of knowledge symbolized by the great Root-Dragon, the Spiritual LOGOS of these visible signs. But those who do, receive the name of "Dragons," and they are the "Arhats of the Four Truths of the Twenty-eight Faculties," or attributes, and have always been so called.

The Alexandrian Neo-Platonists asserted that to become real *Chaldees* or *Magi*, one had to master the science or knowledge of the periods of the Seven Rectors of the World, in whom is all wisdom. And Iamblichus is

<sup>1</sup> Op Cit, II, p 312-3

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, I, p 321

credited with another version, which does not, however, alter the meaning, for he says :

The Assyrians have not only preserved the records of seven and twenty myriads of years, as Hipparchus says they have, but likewise of the whole apocatastases and periods of the Seven Rulers of the World<sup>1</sup>

The legends of every nation and tribe, whether civilized or savage, point to the once universal belief in the great wisdom and cunning of the Serpents. They are "charmers." They hypnotize the bird with their eye, and man himself very often does not overcome their fascinating influence ; therefore the symbol is a most fitting one.

The crocodile is the Egyptian Dragon. It was the dual symbol of Heaven and Earth, of Sun and Moon, and was made sacred, in consequence of its amphibious nature, to Osiris and Isis. According to Eusebius, the Egyptians represented the Sun in a Ship as its pilot, this ship being carried along by a Crocodile, "to show the motion of the Sun in the Moist (Space)."<sup>2</sup> The Crocodile was, moreover, the symbol of Lower Egypt herself, the Lower being the more swampy of the two countries. The Alchemists claim another interpretation. They say that the symbol of the Sun in the Ship on the Ether of Space meant that the Hermetic Matter is the principle, or basis, of Gold, or again the philosophical Sun, the Water, within which the Crocodile is swimming, is that Water, or Matter, made liquid ; the Ship herself, finally, representing the Vessel of Nature, in which the Sun, or the sulphuric, igneous principle, acts as a pilot, because it is the Sun which conducts the work by his action upon the Moist or Mercury. The above is only for the Alchemists.

The Serpent became the type and symbol of evil, and of the Devil, only during the Middle Ages. The early Christians as well as the Ophite Gnostics, had their dual Logos : the Good and the Bad Serpent, the Agathodæmon and the Kakodæmon. This is demonstrated by the writings of Marcus, Valentinus, and many others, and especially in *Pistis-Sophia*—certainly a document of the earliest centuries of Christianity. On the marble sarcophagus of a tomb, discovered in 1852 near the Porta Pia, one sees the scene of the adoration of the Magi, "or else," remarks the late C. W. King, in *The Gnostics and their Remains*, "the prototype of that scene, the 'Birth of the New Sun'." The mosaic floor exhibited a curious design which might have represented either (a) Isis suckling the babe Harpocrates, or (b) the Madonna nursing the infant Jesus. In the smaller sarcophagi that surrounded the larger one, many leaden plates rolled like scrolls were found, eleven of which can still be deciphered. The contents of these ought to be regarded as final proof of a much-vexed

<sup>1</sup> Proclus, *Timæus*, I

<sup>2</sup> *Prep. Evang.*, I, III, 3

question, for they show that either the early Christians, up to the VIth Century, were *bona fide* Pagans, or that dogmatic Christianity was borrowed wholesale, and passed in full into the Christian Church—Sun, Tree, Serpent, Crocodile and all.

On the first is seen Anubis . . . holding out a scroll, at his feet are two female busts: below all are two serpents entwined about . . . a corpse swathed up like a mummy. In the second scroll . . . is Anubis, holding out a cross, the "Sign of Life." Under his feet lies the corpse encircled in the numerous folds of a huge serpent, the Agathodæmon, guardian of the deceased . . . In the third scroll . . . the same Anubis bears on his arm an oblong object, . . . held so as to convert the outline of the figure into a complete Latin cross . . . At the god's foot is a rhomboid, the Egyptian "Egg of the World," towards which crawls a serpent coiled into a circle. Under the . . . busts . . . is the letter ω, repeated seven times in a line, reminding one of the "Names." Very remarkable also is the line of characters, apparently Palmyrene, upon the legs of the first Anubis. As for the figure of the serpent, supposing these talismans to emanate not from the Isiac but the newer Ophite creed, it may well stand for that "True and perfect Serpent," who "leads forth the souls of all that put their trust in him out of the Egypt of the body, and through the Red Sea of Death into the Land of Promise, saving them on their way from the Serpents of the Wilderness, that is, from the Rulers of the Stars"<sup>1</sup>

And this "True and perfect Serpent" is the seven-lettered God who is now credited with being Jehovah, and Jesus *One with him*. To this seven-vowelled God the candidate for Initiation is sent by the "First Mystery,"<sup>2</sup> in the *Pistis-Sophia*, a work earlier than St. John's *Revelation*, and evidently of the same school. The (Serpent of the) seven thunders uttered these seven vowels, but "seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not," says *Revelation*.<sup>3</sup> "Do ye seek after these mysteries?"—inquires Jesus in *Pistis-Sophia*. "No mystery is more excellent than they [the seven vowels]; for they shall bring your souls unto the Light of Lights"—i.e., true Wisdom. "Nothing, therefore, is more excellent than the mysteries which ye seek after, saving only the mystery of the Seven Vowels and their forty and nine Powers, and the numbers thereof."

In India, it was *the mystery of the Seven FIRES* and their Forty-nine Fires or aspects, or "the numbers thereof," just the same.

These Seven Vowels are represented by the Svastika signs on the crowns of the seven heads of the Serpent of Eternity, in India, among Esoteric Buddhists, in Egypt, in Chaldea, etc., and among the Initiates of every other country. They are the Seven Zones of *post mortem* ascent, in the Hermetic writings, in each of which the "Mortal" leaves one of his "Souls," or Principles; until arrived on the plane above all Zones, he remains as the great Formless Serpent of Absolute Wisdom, or the Deity Itself. The seven-headed

<sup>1</sup> Op. cit., pp 366-8.

<sup>2</sup> "is sent by Christos," in the 1888 edition.

<sup>3</sup> *Revelation*, x, 4.



Serpent has more than one signification in the Arcane teachings. It is the seven-headed Draco, each of whose heads is a star of the Lesser Bear ; but it was also, and pre-eminently, the Serpent of Darkness, *i.e.*, inconceivable and incomprehensible, whose seven heads were the seven Logoi, the reflections of the one and first-manifested Light—the Universal Logos.

## SECTION 11

### DEMON EST DEUS INVERSUS

THIS symbolical sentence, in its many-sided forms, is certainly most dangerous and iconoclastic in the face of all the dualistic later religions, or rather theologies, and especially so in the light of Christianity. Yet it is neither just nor correct to say that it is Christianity which has conceived and brought forth Satan. As an "adversary," the opposing Power required by the equilibrium and harmony of things in Nature, as Shadow is required to make still brighter the Light, as Night to bring into greater *relief* the Day, and as Cold to make one appreciate the more the comfort of Heat, so has SATAN ever existed. Homogeneity is one and indivisible. But if the homogeneous One and Absolute is no mere figure of speech, and if Heterogeneity, in its dualistic aspect, is its offspring, its bifurcous shadow or reflection, then even that divine Homogeneity must contain in itself the essence of both good and evil. If "God" is Absolute, Infinite, and the Universal Root of all and everything in Nature and its Universe, whence comes Evil or D'Evil if not from the same "Golden Womb" of the Absolute? Thus we are forced either to accept the emanation of good and evil, of Agathodæmon and Kakodæmon, as offshoots from the same trunk of the Tree of Being, or to resign ourselves to the absurdity of believing in two eternal Absolutes!

Having to trace the origin of the idea to the very beginnings of the human mind, it is but just, meanwhile, to give his due even to the proverbial Devil. Antiquity knew of no isolated, thoroughly and absolutely bad "god of evil." Pagan thought represented good and evil as twin brothers, born from the same mother—Nature; so soon as that thought ceased to be Archaic, Wisdom passed into Philosophy. In the beginning the symbols of good and evil were mere abstractions, Light and Darkness, later their types were chosen among the most natural and ever-recurrent periodical cosmic phenomena—the Day and Night, or the Sun and Moon. Then the Hosts of the Solar and Lunar Deities were made to represent them, and the Dragon of Darkness was contrasted with the Dragon of Light. The HOST of Satan is a Son of God, no

less than the Host of the B'ne Alhim, the Children of God who came to "present themselves before the Lord," their Father.<sup>1</sup> "The Sons of God" become the "Fallen Angels" only after perceiving that the daughters of men were fair.<sup>2</sup> In the Indian philosophy, the Suras are among the earliest and the brightest Gods, and become Asuras only when dethroned by Brâhmanical fancy. Satan never assumed an anthropomorphic, individualized shape, until the creation by man, of a "one living personal God," had been accomplished; and then merely as a matter of prime necessity. A screen was needed, a scape-goat to explain the cruelty, blunders, and but too-evident injustice, perpetrated by him for whom absolute perfection, mercy and goodness were claimed. This was the first Karmic effect of abandoning a philosophical and logical Pantheism, to build, as a prop for lazy man, "a merciful Father in Heaven," whose daily and hourly actions, as *Natura Naturans*, the "comely Mother but stone cold," belie the assumption. This led to the primal twins, Osiris-Typhon, Ormazd-Ahriman, and finally Cain-Abel and the *tutti quanti* [all the rest] of contraries.

Having commenced by being synonymous with Nature, "God," the Creator, ended by being made its author. Pascal settles the difficulty very cunningly by saying

Nature has perfections, in order to show that she is the image of God, and defects, in order to show that she is *only* his image

The further back one recedes into the darkness of the prehistoric ages, the more philosophical does the prototypic figure of the later Satan appear. The first "Adversary," in individual human form, that one meets with in old Purânic literature, is one of her greatest Rishis and Yogis—Nârada, surnamed the "Strife-maker."

And he is a Brahma-putra, a son of Brahmâ, the male. But of him later on. Who the great "Deceiver" really is, one can ascertain by searching for him, with open eyes and an unprejudiced mind, in every old Cosmogony and Scripture.

It is the anthropomorphized Demiurge, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, when separated from the collective Hosts of his Fellow-Creators, whom, so to speak, he represents and synthesizes. It is now the God of Theologies. "The wish is father to the thought." Once upon a time, a philosophical symbol left to perverse human fancy, afterwards, fashioned into a fiendish, deceiving, cunning, and jealous God.

As the Dragons and other Fallen Angels are described in other parts of this work, a few words upon the much-slandered Satan will be sufficient. The

<sup>1</sup> Job, II, 1

<sup>2</sup> Genesis, VI, 2

student will do well to remember that, with every people, except the Christian nations, the Devil is to this day no worse an entity than the opposite aspect in the dual nature of the so-called Creator. This is only natural. One cannot claim God as the synthesis of the whole Universe, as Omnipresent and Omniscient and Infinite, and then divorce him from Evil. As there is far more Evil than Good in the world, it follows on logical grounds that either God must include Evil, or stand as the direct cause of it, or else surrender his claims to Absoluteness. The Ancients understood this so well that their philosophers, now followed by the Kabalists, defined Evil as the "lining" of God or Good, *Demon est Deus inversus*, being a very old adage. Indeed, Evil is but an antagonizing blind force in Nature, it is *reaction*, *opposition*, and *contrast*—evil for some, good for others. There is no *malum in se* [absolute evil]; only the Shadow of Light, without which Light could have no existence, even in our perceptions. If Evil disappeared, Good would disappear along with it from Earth. The "Old Dragon" was pure Spirit before he became Matter, *passive* before he became *active*. In the Syro-Chaldean Magic both Ophis and Ophiomorphos are joined in the Zodiac in the sign of the Androgyne *Virgo-Scorpio*. Before its fall on earth the "Serpent" was *Ophis-Christos*, and after its fall it became Ophiomorphos-CHRESTOS. Everywhere the speculations of the Kabalists treat of Evil as a FORCE, which is antagonistic, but at the same time essential, to Good, as giving it vitality and existence, which it could never have otherwise. There would be no *Life* possible (in the *mâyâvic* sense) without *Death*, no regeneration and reconstruction without destruction. Plants would perish in eternal sunlight, and so would man, who would become an automaton without the exercise of his free will, and his aspiring towards that sunlight, which would lose its being and value for him had he nothing but light. Good is infinite and eternal only in the eternally concealed from us, and this is why we imagine it eternal. On the manifested planes, one equilibrates the other. Few are those Theists, believers in a Personal God, who do not make of Satan the shadow of God; or who, confounding both, do not believe they have a right to pray to their idol, asking its help and protection for the exercise of and immunity for their evil and cruel deeds. "Lead us not into temptation" is addressed daily to "our Father, in Heaven," and not to the Devil, by millions of Christian hearts. This they do, repeating the very words put into the mouth of their Saviour, and yet do not give one thought to the fact that their meaning is contradicted point blank by James, "the brother of the Lord":

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> James, 1, 13

Why, then, say that it is the Devil who tempts us, when the Church teaches us, *on the authority of Christ*, that it is God who does so? Open any pious volume in which the word "temptation" is defined in its theological sense, and forthwith you find two definitions:

(1) Those afflictions and troubles whereby God tries his people; (2) Those means and enticements which the Devil makes use of to ensnare and allure mankind<sup>1</sup>

If accepted literally, the teachings of Christ and James contradict each other, and what dogma can reconcile the two if the Occult meaning is rejected?

Between the alternative allurements, wise will be that philosopher who will be able to decide where God disappears to make room for the Devil! Therefore, when we read that "the Devil is a liar and the father of it," that is, an INCARNATE LIE, and are also told in the same breath that Satan, the Devil, was a Son of God and the most beautiful of his Archangels, rather than believe that Father and Son are a gigantic, personified and eternal LIE, we prefer to turn to Pantheism and to Pagan philosophy for information.

Once that the key to *Genesis* is in our hands, the scientific and symbolical Kabbalah unveils the secret. The Great Serpent of the Garden of Eden and the "Lord God" are identical, and so are Jehovah and Cain ONE—that Cain who is referred to in Theology as the "murderer" and the LIAR to God! Jehovah tempts the King of Israel to number the people, and Satan tempts him to do the same in another place. Jehovah turns into the Fiery Serpents to bite those he is displeased with; and Jehovah informs the Brazen Serpent that heals them.

These short, and seemingly contradictory, statements in the *Old Testament*—contradictory because the two Powers are separated instead of being regarded as the two faces of one and the same thing—are the echoes, distorted out of recognition by exotericism and theology, of the universal and philosophical dogmas in Nature, so well understood by the primitive Sages. We find the same groundwork in several personifications in the *Purânas*, only far more ample and philosophically suggestive.

Thus Pulastya, a "Son of God," one of the first progeny, is made the progenitor of Demons, the Rākshasas, the tempters and the devourers of men. Pishâchâ, a female Demon, is a daughter of Daksha, a "Son of God" too, and a God, and the mother of all the Pishâchas.<sup>2</sup> The Demons, so-called in the *Purânas*, are very extraordinary Devils when judged from the standpoint of European and orthodox views, since all of them, Dānavas, Daityas, Pishâchas, and Rākshasas, are represented as extremely pious, following the

<sup>1</sup> James, i, 2, 12, *Matth*, vi, 13 See Cruden, sub voce

<sup>2</sup> *Padma Purâna*

precepts of the *Vedas*, some of them even being great Yogis. But they oppose the clergy and ritualism, sacrifices and forms, just as the head Yogis do to this day in India, and are no less respected for it, though they are allowed to follow neither caste nor ritual, hence all those Purāṇic Giants and Titans are called Devils. The missionaries, ever on the watch to show, if they can, that the Hindu traditions are nothing better than a reflection of the Jewish *Bible*, have evolved a whole romance on the alleged identity of Pulastya with Cain, and of the Rākshasas with the Cainites, the ‘Accursed,’ the cause of the *Noachian Deluge*. (See the work of Abbé Gorresio, who “etymologizes” Pulastya’s name as meaning the “rejected,” hence Cain, if you please). Pulastya dwells in Kedara, he says, which means a “dug-up place,” a *mine*, and Cain is shown, in tradition and the *Bible*, as the first worker in metals and a miner thereof !

While it is very probable that the Geburim, or Giants, of the *Bible* are the Rākshasas of the Hindus, it is still more certain that both are Atlanteans, and belong to the submerged races. However it may be, no Satan could be more persistent in slandering his enemy, or more spiteful in his hatred, than the Christian Theologians are in cursing him as the father of every evil. Compare their vituperation and their opinions about the Devil with the philosophical views of the Purāṇic Sages and their Christ-like mansuetude. When Parāshara, whose father was devoured by a Rākshasa, was preparing himself to destroy, by magic arts, the whole race, his grandsire, Vasishtha, after showing the irate Sage, on his own confession, that there is Evil and *Karma*, but no “evil Spirits,” speaks the following suggestive words :

Let thy wrath be appeased the Rākshasas are not culpable thy father’s death was the work of destiny [*Karma*] Anger is the passion of fools, it becometh not a wise man. By whom, it may be asked, is any one killed? Every man reaps the consequences of his own acts Anger, my son, is the destruction of all that man obtains, and prevents the attainment of emancipation The sages shun wrath be not thou, my child, subject to its influence Let no more of these unoffending spirits of darkness be consumed. (Let this thy sacrifice cease). Mercy is the might of the righteous<sup>1</sup>

Thus, every such “sacrifice” or prayer to God for help is *no better than an act of black magic*. That which Parāshara prayed for, was the destruction of the Spirits of Darkness, for his personal revenge. He is called a *Pagan*, and the Christians have doomed him, as such, to eternal hell. Yet, in what respect is the prayer of sovereigns and generals, who pray before every battle for the destruction of their enemy, any better? Such a prayer

<sup>1</sup> *Vishnu Purāṇa*, Vol I, pp 7-8

is in every case *black magic* of the worst kind, concealed like a demon "Mr. Hyde" under a sanctimonious "Dr. Jekyll"

In human nature, evil denotes only the polarity of Matter and Spirit, a struggle for life between the two manifested Principles in Space and Time, which Principles are one *per se*, inasmuch as they are rooted in the Absolute. In Kosmos, the equilibrium must be preserved. The operations of the two contraries produce harmony, like the centripetal and centrifugal forces, which, being mutually inter-dependent, are necessary to each other, "in order that both should live." If one should be arrested, the action of the other would become immediately self-destructive.

Since the personification called Satan has been amply analyzed from its triple aspect, in the *Old Testament*, Christian Theology and the ancient Gentile attitude of thought, those who would learn more of the subject are referred to *Isis Unveiled*<sup>1</sup> and Volume 4 of the present work. The subject is here touched upon, and fresh explanations are attempted, for a very good reason. Before we can approach the evolution of physical and *divine* Man, we have first to master the idea of cyclic evolution, to acquaint ourselves with the philosophies and beliefs of the four Races which preceded our present Race, and to learn what were the ideas of those Titans and Giants—Giants, verily, mentally as well as physically. The whole of antiquity was imbued with that philosophy which teaches the involution of Spirit into Matter, the progressive, downward cyclic descent, or active, self-conscious evolution. The Alexandrian Gnostics have sufficiently divulged the secrets of Initiations, and their records are full of the "falling down of the *Æons*," in their double qualification of Angelic Beings and Periods, the one the natural evolution of the other. On the other hand, Oriental traditions on both sides of the "Black Water," the Oceans that separate the two *East*s, are equally full of allegories about the downfall of the Pleroma, or that of the Gods and Devas. One and all, they allegorized and explained the FALL as *the desire to learn and acquire knowledge—to KNOW*. This is the natural sequence of mental evolution, the Spiritual becoming transmuted into the Material or Physical. The same law of descent into materiality and of re-ascent into spirituality asserted itself during the Christian era, the reaction having only stopped just now, in our own special *sub-race*.

That which was allegorized in *Pyramider*, perhaps ten millenniums ago, for a triune mode of interpretation, and intended for a record of an astronomical, anthropological, and even alchemical fact, namely, the allegory of the Seven Rectors breaking through the Seven Circles of Fire, was dwarfed into

<sup>1</sup> Vol II, ch x

one material and anthropomorphic interpretation—the Rebellion and *Fall of the Angels*. The multivocal, profoundly philosophical narrative, under its poetical form of the “Marriage of Heaven with Earth,” the love of Nature for Divine Form, and the “Heavenly Man” enraptured with his own beauty mirrored in Nature, *i.e.*, Spirit attracted into Matter, has now become, under theological handling, “the Seven Rectors disobeying Jehovah, self-admiration generating Satanic Pride, followed by their FALL, Jehovah permitting no worship to be lost save upon himself” In short, the beautiful Planet-Angels, the glorious Cyclic Æons of the Ancients, have become synthesized in their most orthodox shape in Samael, the Chief of the Demons in the *Talmud*, “that Great Serpent with twelve wings that draws down after himself, in his Fall, the Solar System, or the Titans.” But Schemal—the *alter ego* and the Sabeian type of Samael—in his philosophical and esoteric aspect, meant the “Year,” in its astrological evil aspect, with its twelve months or “wings” of unavoidable evils, in Nature. In Esoteric Theogony both Schemal and Samael represented a particular divinity.<sup>1</sup> With the Kabalists they are the “Spirit of the Earth,” the Personal God that governs it, and therefore *de facto* identical with Jehovah. For the Talmudists themselves admit that SAMAEL is a god-name of one of the seven Elohim. The Kabalists, moreover, show the two, Schemal and Samael, as a symbolical form of Saturn, Kronos, the “twelve wings” standing for the twelve months, and the symbol in its collectivity representing a *racial cycle*. Jehovah and Saturn are also glyphically identical.

This leads, in its turn, to a very curious deduction from a Roman Catholic dogma. Many renowned writers belonging to the Latin Church admit that a difference exists, and should be made, between the Uranian Titans, the antediluvian Giants, who were also Titans, and those post-diluvian Giants, in whom the Roman Catholics *will* see the descendants of the mythical Ham. In clearer words, there is a difference to be made between the Cosmic, *primordial* opposing Forces, guided by cyclic law, the Atlantean human Giants, and the post-diluvian great Adepts, whether of the *right* or the *left-hand*. At the same time they show that Michael, “the *generalissimo* of the fighting Celestial Host, *bodyguard of Jehovah*,” as it would seem, according to de Mirville, is also a Titan, only with the adjective of “divine” before the cognomen. Thus those “Uranides” who are called everywhere “divine Titans”—and who, having rebelled against Kronos, or Saturn, are therefore also shown to be the enemies of Samael, also one of the Elohim, and synonymous with Jehovah in his collectivity—are identical with Michael and his host. In short, the rôles are reversed, all the combatants are confused, and no student is able

<sup>1</sup> See Chwolsohn, *Nabathean Agriculture*, II, p. 217.



to distinguish clearly which is which. Esoteric explanation may, however, bring some order into this confusion, in which Jehovah becomes Saturn, and Michael and his Army, Satan and the Rebellious Angels, owing to the indiscreet endeavours of the too faithful zealots to see a devil in every pagan god. The true meaning is far more philosophical, and the legend of the first "Fall" of the Angels assumes a scientific colouring when correctly understood.

Kronos stands for endless, and hence immovable Duration, without beginning, without end, beyond divided Time and beyond Space. Those Angels, Genii, or Devas, who were born to *act in space and time*, that is, to break through the *seven circles of the super-spiritual* planes into the phenomenal, or circumscribed, super-terrestrial regions, are said allegorically to have rebelled against Kronos, and fought [the Lion] who was then the one living and highest God. When Kronos, in his turn, is represented as mutilating Uranus, his father, the meaning of this mutilation [allegory] is very simple. Absolute Time is made to become the finite and conditioned, a portion is robbed from the whole, thus showing that Saturn, the Father of the Gods, has been transformed from *Eternal Duration* into a limited Period. Kronos with his scythe cuts down even the longest and, to us, seemingly endless cycles, which, for all that, are limited in Eternity, and with the same scythe destroys the mightiest rebels. Aye, not one will escape the scythe of Time! Praise the God or Gods, or flout one or both, that scythe will not tremble one millionth of a second in its ascending or descending course.

The Titans of Hesiod's *Theogony* were copied in Greece from the *Suras* and *Asuras* of India. These Hesiodic Titans, the *Uranides*, which were once upon a time numbered as only six, have been recently discovered, in an old fragment relating to the Greek myth, to be seven, the seventh being called Phoreg. Thus their identity with the Seven Rectors is fully demonstrated. The origin of the "War in Heaven" and the FALL has, in our mind, to be traced unavoidably to India, and perhaps far earlier than the Purânîc accounts thereof. For the Târakâmaya was in a later age, and there are accounts of three distinct Wars to be traced in almost every Cosmogony.

The first war happened in the night of time, between the Gods and (A)suras, and lasted for the period of one Divine Year.<sup>1</sup> On this occasion

<sup>1</sup> One Day of Brâhmâ lasts 4,320,000,000 years—multiply this by 360! The A-suras (no-gods, or demons) are here still *Suras*, gods higher in hierarchy than such secondary gods as are not even mentioned in the *Vedas*. The duration of the war shows its significance, and also shows that the combatants are only the personified Cosmic powers. It is evidently for sectarian purposes and out of odium *theologicum* that the illusive form *Mâyâmoha*, assumed by Vishnu, was attributed in later re-arrangements of old texts to Buddha and the Daityas, as in the *Vishnu Purâna*, unless it was a fancy of Wilson himself. He also fancied he found an allusion to Buddhism in the *Bhagavad Gîtâ*, whereas, as proved by K T Telang, he had only confused the Buddhists and the older Chârvaṅka materialists. The version exists nowhere in other *Purânas* if the inference does, as Professor Wilson claims, in the

the Deities were defeated by the Daityas, under the leadership of Hrâda. But afterwards, owing to a device of Vishnu, to whom the conquered gods applied for help, the latter defeated the Asuras. In the *Vishnu-Purâna* no interval is found between the two wars. In the Esoteric Doctrine, however, one war takes place before the building of the Solar System; another, on Earth, at the "creation" of man, and a third "war" is mentioned as taking place at the close of the Fourth Race, between its Adepts and those of the Fifth Race; that is, between the Initiates of the "Sacred Island" and the Sorcerers of Atlantis. We shall notice the first contest, as recounted by Parâshara, and endeavour to separate the two accounts, which are purposely blended together.

It is there stated that as the Daityas and Asuras were engaged in the duties of their respective orders (*varnas*) and followed the paths prescribed by holy writ, practising also religious penance (a queer employment for demons if they are identical with our devils, as it is claimed), it was impossible for the gods to destroy them. The prayers addressed by the gods to Vishnu are curious, as showing the ideas involved in an anthropomorphic Deity. Having, after their defeat, "fled to the northern shore of the Milky Ocean [Atlantic Ocean],"<sup>1</sup> the discomfited gods address many supplications "to the first of Beings, the divine Vishnu," and among others the following:

Glory to thee, who art one with the saints, whose perfect nature is ever blessed, and traverses, unobstructed, all permeable elements! Glory to thee, who art one with the serpent-race, double-tongued, impetuous, cruel, insatiate of enjoyment, and abounding with wealth. Glory to thee, O lord who hast neither colour nor extension, nor bulk (*ghana*), nor any predicable qualities, and whose essence (*rûpa*), purest of the pure, is appreciable only by holy sages (Paramarshis) [the greatest of Sages or Rishis]. We bow to thee, in the nature of Brahmâ, uncreated, undecaying (*avyaya*), who art in our bodies, and in all other bodies, and in all living creatures, and besides whom there is nothing else. We glorify that Vâsudeva, the (sovereign) lord (of all), who is without soil, the seed of all things, exempt from dissolution, unborn, eternal, being, in essence, the supreme condition of Spirit (Paramapadâtmavat) and, in substance (*rûpa*), the whole of this (universe).<sup>2</sup>

The above is quoted as an illustration of the vast field offered by the *Purânas* to adverse and erroneous criticism, by every European bigot who

*Vishnu Purâna*, the translation of which, especially of Book III, ch. xviii, where the reverend Orientalist arbitrarily introduces Buddha, and shows him teaching Buddhism to Daityas, led to another "great war" between himself and Col. Vans Kennedy. The latter charged him publicly with wilfully distorting Purânic texts. "I affirm," wrote the Colonel at Bombay, in 1840, "that the *Purânas* do not contain what Professor Wilson has stated is contained in them," until such passages are produced I may be allowed to repeat my former conclusions that Professor Wilson's opinion, that the *Purânas* as now extant are compilations made between the eighth and seventeenth centuries [A.D. 1], rests solely on gratuitous assumptions and unfounded assertions, and that his reasoning in support of it is either futile, fallacious, contradictory, or improbable." (See *Vishnu Purâna*, trans. by Wilson, edit. by Fitzedward Hall, Vol. V, p. 375, Appendix.)

<sup>1</sup> This statement belongs to the third War, since the terrestrial continents, seas and rivers are mentioned in connection with it.

<sup>2</sup> *Vishnu Purâna*, Wilson, Vol. III, pp. 203-5.

forms an estimate of an alien religion on mere external evidence. Any man accustomed to subject what he reads to thoughtful analysis, will see at a glance the incongruity of addressing the accepted "Unknowable," the formless, and attributeless ABSOLUTE, such as the Vedântins define BRAHMAN, as being "one with the serpent-race, double-tongued, cruel and insatiable," thus associating the abstract with the concrete, and bestowing adjectives on that which is free from any limitations, and conditionless. Even Professor Wilson, who, after living surrounded by Brâhmans and Pandits in India for so many years, ought to have known better—even that scholar lost no opportunity of criticizing the Hindu Scriptures on this account. Thus, he exclaims :

The *Purânas* constantly teach incompatible doctrines!<sup>1</sup> According to this passage,<sup>1</sup> the Supreme Being is not the inert cause of creation only, but exercises the functions of an active providence. The Commentator quotes a text of the *Veda* in support of this view "Universal Soul entering into men, governs their conduct." Incongruities, however, are as frequent in the *Vedas* as in the *Purânas*.

Less frequent, in sober truth, than in the Mosaic Bible. But prejudice is great in the hearts of our Orientalists, especially in those of "reverend" scholars. UNIVERSAL SOUL is *not* the inert Cause of Creation or (Para) Brahman, but simply that which we call the Sixth Principle of *intellectual* Kosmos, on the manifested plane of being. It is Mahat, or *Mahâbuddhi*, the Great Soul, the vehicle of Spirit, the first primeval reflection of the formless CAUSE, and that which is even *beyond* SPIRIT. So much for Professor Wilson's uncalled-for fling at the *Purânas*. As for the apparently incongruous appeal to Vishnu by the defeated Gods, the explanation is there, in the text of *Vishnu Purâna*, if Orientalists would only notice it. There is Vishnu as Brahman, and Vishnu in his two aspects, philosophy teaches. There is but one Brahman, "essentially Prakriti and Spirit. . . ."

[This ignorance is truly and beautifully expressed in the praise of the Yogis to Brahman, "the upholder of the earth," when they say :

Those who have not practised devotion conceive erroneously of the nature of the world. The ignorant, who do not perceive that this Universe is of the nature of Wisdom, and judge of it as an object of perception only, are lost in the ocean of spiritual ignorance. But they who know true Wisdom, and whose minds are pure, behold this whole world as one with Divine Knowledge, as one with thee, O God!<sup>1</sup> Be favourable, O universal Spirit!<sup>2</sup>]

Therefore, it is not Vishnu, "the inert cause of creation," which exercised the functions of an active Providence, but the Universal Soul, that which, in its

<sup>1</sup> *Vishnu Purâna*, Wilson, Vol. II, p. 36. in the story of Prahlâda—the Son of Hiranyakashipu, the Pûranic Satan, the great enemy of Vishnu, and the King of the Three Worlds—into whose heart Vishnu entered.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, Wilson, Vol. I, p. 64.

material aspect, Éliphas Lévi calls *Astral Light*. And this "Soul" is, in its dual aspect of Spirit and Matter, the true anthropomorphic God of the Theists; for this God is a *personification* of that Universal Creative Agent, both pure and impure, owing to its manifested condition and differentiation in this Mâyâvic World—God and Devil, truly. But Professor Wilson failed to see how Vishnu, in this character, closely resembles the Lord God of Israel, "especially in his policy of deception, temptation, and cunning."

In the *Vishnu Purâna* this is made as plain as can be. For it is said there, that :

At the conclusion of their prayers (*stotra*) the gods beheld the sovereign deity Hari [Vishnu] armed with the shell, the discus, and the mace, *riding on Garuda*.<sup>1</sup>

Now Garuda is the manvantaric cycle, as will be shown in its place. Vishnu, therefore, is the Deity *in Space and Time*, the peculiar God of the Vaishnavas. Such Gods are called in Esoteric Philosophy *tribal* or *racial*; that is, one of the many Dhyânis or Gods, or Elohim, one of whom was generally chosen for some special reason by a nation or a tribe, and thus became gradually a "God above all gods,"<sup>2</sup> the "highest God," as Jehovah, Osiris, Bel, or any other of the Seven Regents.

"The tree is known by its fruit", the nature of a God by his actions. We must either judge these actions by the dead-letter narratives, or must accept them allegorically. If we compare the two—Vishnu, as the defender and champion of the defeated gods; and Jehovah, the defender and champion of the "chosen" people, so called by anti-phrasis, no doubt, as it is the Jews who had *chosen* that "jealous" God—we shall find that both use deceit and cunning. They do so on the principle of "the end justifying the means," in order to have the best of their respective opponents and foes—the demons. Thus while, according to the Kabalists, Jehovah assumes the shape of the tempting Serpent in the Garden of Eden, sends Satan with a special mission to tempt Job, harasses and wearies Pharaoh with Sarai, Abraham's wife, and "*hardens*" another Pharaoh's heart against Moses, lest there should be no opportunity for *plaguing* his victims "with great plagues,"<sup>3</sup> Vishnu is made in his *Purâna* to resort to a trick no less unworthy of any respectable God.

The defeated Gods addressed Vishnu as follows :

Have compassion upon us, O lord, and protect us, who have come to thee for succour from the Daityas [Demons]<sup>4</sup> They have seized upon the three worlds, and appropriated the offerings which are our portion, *taking care not to transgress the precepts of the Veda* Although we, as well as they, are parts of thee<sup>1</sup> engaged

<sup>1</sup> *Vishnu Purâna*, Vol. III, p. 205.

<sup>2</sup> *Genesis*, xii, 17, *Exodus*, viii to xi

<sup>3</sup> *II Chronicles*, ii, 5.

<sup>4</sup> "There was a day when the Sons of God came before the Lord, and Satan came with his brothers, also before the Lord" (*Job* ii, Abyss, Ethiopic text) [See, *Job*, ii, 1]

[as they are] in . . . the paths prescribed by holy writ . . . it is impossible for us to destroy them. Do thou, whose wisdom is immeasurable (Ameyâtman) instruct us in some device by which we may be able to exterminate the enemies of the Gods !

When the mighty Vishnu heard their request, he emitted from his body an *illusory* form (Mâyâmoha, the "deluder by illusion") which he gave to the gods and thus spake : "This deceptive vision (Mâyâmoha) shall wholly beguile the Daityas, so that, being led astray from the path of the Vedas, they may be put to death . . . Go then and fear not. Let this delusive vision precede you. It shall this day be of great service unto you, O gods !"

After this, the great delusion [Mâyâmoha] having proceeded (to earth), beheld the Daityas, engaged in ascetic penances, . . . and approaching them, in the semblance of a Digambara (naked mendicant) with his head shaven, . . . he thus addressed them, in gentle accents "Ho, lords of the Daitya race, wherefore is it that you practise these acts of penance ?" etc.<sup>1</sup>

Finally the Daityas were seduced by the wily talk of Mâyâmoha, as Eve was seduced by the advice of the Serpent. They became apostates to the Vedas. As Dr. Muir translates the passage :

The great Deceiver, practising illusion, next beguiled other Daityas, by means by many other sorts of heresy. In a very short time, these Asuras (Daityas), deluded of the Deceiver [who was Vishnu] abandoned the entire system founded on the ordinances of the triple Veda. Some reviled the Vedas, others, the ceremonial of sacrifice; and others, the Brâhmins. This (they exclaimed), is a doctrine which will not bear discussion. the slaughter (of animals, in sacrifice), is not conducive to religious merit. (To say, that) oblations of butter consumed in the fire produce any future reward, is the assertion of a child. . . . If it be a fact that a beast slain in sacrifice is exalted to heaven, why does not the worshipper slaughter his own father? . . . Infallible utterances do not, great Asuras, fall from the skies, it is only assertions founded on reasoning that are accepted by me and by other [intelligent] persons like yourselves ! Thus by numerous methods the Daityas were unsettled by the great Deceiver [Reason]. When the Daityas had entered on the path of error, the Deities mustered all their energies and approached to battle. Then followed a combat between the Gods and the Asuras, and the latter, who had abandoned the right road, were smitten by the former. In previous times they had been defended by the armour of righteousness which they bore, but, when that had been destroyed, they, also, perished.<sup>2</sup>

Whatever may be thought of the Hindus, no enemy of theirs can regard them as fools. A people, whose holy men and sages have left to the world the greatest and most sublime philosophies that ever emanated from the minds of men, must have known the difference between right and wrong. Even a savage can discern white from black, good from bad, and deceit from sincerity and truthfulness. Those who had narrated this event in the biography of their God, must have seen that in this case it was that God who was the Arch-Deceiver, and the Daityas, who "never transgressed the precepts of the Vedas," who had the sunny side in the transaction, and who were the true "Gods." Thence there must have been, *there is* a secret meaning hidden under this allegory. In no class of society, in no nation, are

<sup>1</sup> Ibid, Vol III, pp. 205-7

<sup>2</sup> Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society, xix, 302.

deceit and craft considered as *divine* virtues—except perhaps in the clerical classes of Theologians and modern Jesuitism.

The *Vishnu Purâna*,<sup>1</sup> like all other works of this kind, passed at a later period into the hands of the Temple-Brâhmans, and the old MSS have, no doubt, been further tampered with by sectarians. But there was a time when the *Purânas* were esoteric works, and so they are still for the Initiates who can read them with the key that is in their possession.

Whether the Brâhman Initiates will ever give out the full meaning of these allegories, is a question with which the writer is not concerned. The present object is to show that, while honouring the *creative powers* in their multiple forms, no philosopher could have, or ever has, accepted the allegory for its true Spirit, except, perhaps, some philosophers belonging to the present “superior and civilized” Christian races. For, as shown, Jehovah is not one whit the superior of Vishnu on the plane of ethics. This is why the Occultists, and even some Kabalists, whether or not they regard those creative Forces as *living and conscious Entities*—and one does not see why they should not be so accepted—will never confuse the CAUSE with the Effect, and accept the Spirit of the Earth for Parabrahman, or Ain Soph. At all events they know well the true nature of what was called by the Greeks Father-Æther, Jupiter-Titan, etc. They know that the Soul of the ASTRAL LIGHT is divine, and its Body—the Light-waves on the lower planes—infernal. This Light is symbolized by the “Magic Head” in the *Zohar*, the Double Face on the Double Pyramid; the black Pyramid rising against a pure white ground, with *a white head and Face within its black triangle*, the white Pyramid, inverted—the reflection of the first in the dark Waters—showing the *black reflection of the white Face*.

This is the Astral Light, or DEMON EST DEUS INVERSUS.

<sup>1</sup> Wilson's opinion that *Vishnu Purâna* is a production of *our era*, and that in its present form it is not earlier than between the 8th and the 17th (11) century, is absurd beyond noticing

## SECTION 12

### THE THEOGONY OF THE CREATIVE GODS

THOROUGHLY to comprehend the idea underlying every ancient Cosmology necessitates the study and comparative analysis of all the great religions of antiquity, for it is only by this method that the root-idea can be made plain. Exact Science, could it soar so high, in tracing the operations of Nature to their ultimate and original sources, would call this idea the hierarchy of Forces. The original, transcendental and philosophical conception was one. But as systems began to reflect more and more with every age the idiosyncrasies of nations, and as the latter, after separating, settled into distinct groups, each evolving along its own national or tribal groove, the main idea gradually became veiled by the overgrowth of human fancy. While in some countries the FORCES, or rather the intelligent Powers of Nature, received divine honours to which they were hardly entitled, in others—as now in Europe and the other *civilized* lands—the very thought of such Forces being endowed with intelligence seems absurd, and is proclaimed *unscientific*. Therefore one finds relief in such statements as are found in the Introduction to *Asgard and the Gods*; “Tales and Traditions of our Northern Ancestors,” edited by W.S.W Anson, who says.

Although in Central Asia, on the banks of the Indus, in the Land of the Pyramids, in the Greek and Italian peninsulas, and even in the North, whither Kelts, Teutons and Slavs wandered, the religious conceptions of the people have taken different forms, yet their common origin is still perceptible. We point out this connection between the stories of the gods, and the deep thought contained in them, and their importance, in order that the reader may see that it is not a magic world of erratic fancy which is opened out before him, but that Life and Nature formed the basis of the existence and action of these divinities.<sup>1</sup>

And though it is impossible for any Occultist or student of Eastern Esotericism to concur in the strange idea that, “the religious conceptions of the most famous nations of antiquity are connected with the beginnings of civilization amongst the Germanic races,”<sup>2</sup> he is yet glad to find such truths

expressed as that. "These fairy tales are not senseless stories written for the amusement of the idle, they embody the profound religion of our forefathers."<sup>1</sup>

Precisely so. Not only their Religion, but likewise their History. For a myth, in Greek *μῦθος*, means oral tradition, passed from mouth to mouth from one generation to the other; and even in the modern etymology the term stands for a *fabulous* statement conveying some important truth; a tale of some extraordinary personage whose biography has become overgrown, owing to the veneration of successive generations, with rich popular fancy, but which is no *wholesale* fable. Like our ancestors, the primitive Âryans, we believe firmly in the personality and intelligence of more than one phenomenon-producing Force in Nature.

As time rolled on, the archaic teaching grew dimmer, and the nations more or less lost sight of the highest and one Principle of all things, and began to transfer the abstract attributes of the "causeless cause" to the caused effects, which became in their turn causative, the creative Powers of the Universe, the great nations thus acted from fear of profaning the IDEA; the smaller, because they either failed to grasp it, or lacked the power of philosophic conception needed to preserve it in all its immaculate purity. But one and all, with the exception of the latest Âryans, now become Europeans and Christians, show this veneration in their Cosmogonies. As Thomas Taylor,<sup>2</sup> the most intutional of all the translators of the Greek Fragments, shows, no nation has ever conceived the One Principle as the immediate creator of the visible Universe, for no sane man would credit a planner and architect with having built with his own hands the edifice he admires. On the testimony of Damascius in his work, *On First Principles* (*Περὶ Πρώτων Ἀρχῶν*), they referred to it as the "Unknown DARKNESS". The Babylonians passed over this principle in silence. "To that god," says Porphyry, in his *On Abstinence* (*Περὶ ἀποχῆς τῶν ἐμφύχων*)<sup>3</sup>, "who is above all things, neither external speech ought to be addressed, nor yet that which is inward." Hesiod begins his *Theogony* with the words, "Chaos of all things was the first produced,"<sup>4</sup> thus allowing the inference that its Cause or Producer must be passed over in reverential silence. Homer in his poems ascends no higher than *Night*, whom he represents Zeus as reverencing. According to all the ancient theologists, and the doctrines of Pythagoras and Plato, Zeus, or the immediate Artificer of

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 21

<sup>2</sup> See *The Monthly Magazine*, for April, 1797

<sup>3</sup> [Concerning abstinence from living things]

<sup>4</sup> "Ἦτοι μὲν πρώτιστα Χάος γένητο" (1, 166), *γένετο* being considered in antiquity as meaning "generated" and not simply "was" (See Taylor's "Intro. to the *Parmenides* of Plato," p. 260)



the Universe, *is not the highest God* ; any more than Sir Christopher Wren in his physical, human aspect is the MIND in him which produced his great works of art. Homer, therefore, is not only silent with respect to the First Principle, but likewise with respect to those two Principles immediately posterior to the First, the *Æther* and *Chaos* of Orpheus and Hesiod, and the Bound and Infinity of Pythagoras and Plato.<sup>1</sup> Proclus says of this Highest Principle that it is "the Unity of Unities, and beyond the first Adyta . . . more ineffable than all Silence, and more occult than all Essence . . . concealed amidst the intelligible Gods."<sup>2</sup>

To what was written by Thomas Taylor in 1797—namely, that the "Jews appear to have ascended no higher . . . than the *immediate* Artificer of the Universe," as "Moses introduces a darkness on the face of the deep, without even insinuating that there was any cause of its existence,"<sup>3</sup> one might add something more. Never have the Jews in their *Bible*—a purely esoteric, symbolical work—so profoundly degraded their metaphorical deity as have the Christians, by accepting Jehovah as their one living yet *personal* God.

This First, or rather ONE, Principle was called the "circle of Heaven," symbolized by the hierogram of a Point within a Circle or Equilateral Triangle, the Point being the LOGOS. Thus, in the *Rig Veda*, wherein Brahmâ is not even named, Cosmogony is preluded with the *Hiranyagarbha*, the "Golden Egg," and Prajâpati (later on Brahmâ), from whom emanate all the Hierarchies of "Creators." The Monad, or Point, is the original and is the Unit from which follows the entire numeral system. This Point is the First Cause, but, THAT from which it emanates, or of which, rather, it is the expression, the Logos, is passed over in silence. In its turn, the universal symbol, the *Point within the circle*, was not yet the Architect, but the Cause of that Architect, and the latter stood to it in precisely the same relation as the Point itself stood to the *circumference* of the Circle, which cannot be defined, according to Hermes Trismegistus. Porphyry shows that the Monad and the Duad of Pythagoras are identical with Plato's *infinite* and *finite*, in *Philebus*, or what Plato calls the *ἄπειρον* [boundless] and *πέρας* [bound]. It is the latter only, the Mother, which is substantial, the former being the "cause of all unity and measure of all things",<sup>4</sup> the Duad, Mûlaprakriti, the VEIL [of Parabrahman],

<sup>1</sup> It is the confusion between the "bound," and the "Infinite," that Kapila overwhelms with sarcasms in his disputations with the Brâhman Yogis, who claim in their mystical visions to see the "Highest one."

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> See T. Taylor's article in his *Monthly Magazine*, quoted in the *Platonist* of Feb. 1887, edited by T. M. Johnson, F. T. S., Osceola, Missouri

<sup>4</sup> Vit. Pythag., p. 47.

being thus shown to be the Mother of the Logos and, at the same time, his *daughter*—that is to say, the object of his perception—the produced producer and the secondary cause of it. With Pythagoras, the MONAD returns into Silence and Darkness, as soon as it has evolved the *Triad*, from which emanate the remaining 7 numbers of the 10 numbers which are at the base of the Manifested Universe.

In the Norse Cosmogony it is again the same.

In the beginning was a great abyss [Chaos], neither day nor night existed ; the abyss was Ginnungagap, the yawning gulf, without beginning, without end All Father, the Uncreated, the Unseen, dwelt in the depth of the abyss [Space] and willed, and what He willed came into being <sup>1</sup>

As in the Hindu Cosmogony, the evolution of the Universe is divided into two acts, which are called in India the *Prākṛita* and *Padma* Creations. Before the warm rays pouring from the "Home of Brightness" awaken life in the Great Waters of Space, the Elements of the First Creation come into view, and from them is formed the Giant Ymir, or Oergelmir (literally, *seething clay*), primordial matter differentiated from Chaos. Then comes the cow Audumla, the Nourisher, <sup>2</sup> from whom is born Buri (the Producer), whose son Bor (Born), by Bestla, the daughter of the "Frost-Giants" (the sons of Ymir), had three sons, *Odin*, *Willi* and *We*, or "Spirit," "Will," and "Holiness."<sup>3</sup> This was when Darkness still reigned throughout Space, when the Ases, the creative Powers, or Dhyân Chohans, were not yet evolved, and the Yggdrasil, the tree of the Universe of Time and of Life, had not yet grown, and there was, as yet, no Walhalla, or Hall of Heroes. The Scandinavian legends of Creation, of our Earth and World, begin with *Time* and human Life. All that precedes it is for them "Darkness," wherein All-Father, the Cause of all, dwells As observed by the editor of *Asgard and the Gods*, though these legends have in them the idea of that ALL-FATHER, the original cause of all, "he is scarcely more than mentioned in the poems," not, as he thinks, because before the preaching of the Gospel the idea "could not rise to distinct conceptions of the Eternal," but on account of its deep esoteric character. Therefore, all the creative Gods, or personal Deities, begin at the secondary stage of Cosmic Evolution. Zeus is born *in*, and *out* of Kronos—Time. So is Brahmâ the production and emanation of Kâla, "eternity and time," Kâla being one of the names of Vishnu. Hence we find Odin the Father of the Gods and of the Ases, as Brahmâ is

<sup>1</sup> *Asgard and the Gods*, p. 22

<sup>2</sup> Vāch--the "melodious cow, who milks sustenance and Water," and yields us "nourishment and sustenance," as described in the *Rig Veda*

<sup>3</sup> Compare *The Genesis of the Primordial Races*, in this work

the Father of *the Gods and of the Asuras*; and hence also the androgyne character of all the chief creative Gods, from the second MONAD of the Greeks down to the Sephira Adam Kadmon, the Brahmâ or Prajâpati-Vâch of the Vedas, and the androgyne of Plato, which is but another version of the Indian symbol.

The best metaphysical definition of primeval Theogony, in the spirit of the Vedântins, may be found in the "Notes on the *Bhagavad Gîtâ*," by T. Subba Row. Parabrahman, the Unknown and the Incognizable, as the lecturer tells his audience :

it is not even *Âtmâ* . it is not ego, it is not non-Ego, nor is it consciousness but though not itself an object of knowledge, it is yet capable of supporting and giving rise to every kind of object and every kind of existence which becomes an object of knowledge [It is] the one essence from which starts into existence a centre of energy [which he calls the Logos] <sup>1</sup>

This Logos is the *Shabda Brahman* of the Hindus, which he will not even call *Îshvara* (the "Jord" God), lest the term should create confusion in the people's minds. It is the *Avalokiteshvara* of the Buddhists, the *Verbum* of the Christians in its real esoteric meaning, not in its theological disfigurement.

It is the first *jñâta*, or the Ego in the kosmos, and every other Ego is but its reflection or manifestation. It exists in a latent condition in the bosom of *Parabrahman*, at the time of *pralaya* . [During *Manvantara*] it has consciousness and an individuality of its own [It is a centre of energy, but] such centres of energy are almost innumerable in the bosom of *Parabrahman*. It must not be supposed, that [even] this Logos is [the Creator, or that it is] but a single centre of energy. Their number is almost infinite. [This] is the first Ego that appears in kosmos, and [is] the end of all evolution. [It is the abstract Ego] This is the first manifestation [or aspect] of *Parabrahman*.

When once this Ego starts into existence as a conscious being, from its objective standpoint, *Parabrahman* appears to it as *Mûlaprakriti*. Please bear this in mind . for here is the root of the whole difficulty about *Purusha* and *Prakriti* felt by the various writers on Vedântic philosophy. This *Mûlaprakriti* is material to it [the Logos], as any material object is material to us. This *Mûlaprakriti* is no more *Parabrahman* than the bundle of attributes of this pillar is the pillar itself. *Parabrahman* is an unconditioned and absolute reality, and *Mûlaprakriti* is a sort of veil thrown over it. *Parabrahman* by itself cannot be seen as it is. It is seen by the Logos with a veil thrown over it, and that veil is the mighty expanse of cosmic matter. *Parabrahman*, after having appeared on the one hand as the Ego, and on the other as *Mûlaprakriti*, acts as the one energy through the Logos <sup>2</sup>

And the lecturer explains what he means by this acting of Something which is *Nothing*, though it is the ALL, by a fine simile. He compares the Logos to the Sun through which light and heat radiate, but whose energy, light and heat, exist in some unknown condition in Space and are diffused in

<sup>1</sup> *The Theosophist*, Feb 1887, pp 302-3

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* , pp 303-4

Space only as *visible* light and heat, the Sun being only the agent thereof. This is the first triadic hypostasis. The quaternary is made up by the *energizing light* shed by the Logos.

The Hebrew Kabalists stated it in a manner which is esoterically identical with the Vedāntic. AIN SOPH, they taught, could not be comprehended, could not be located, nor named, though the Causeless Cause of all. Hence its name, Ain Soph, is a term of negation, "the inscrutable, the incognizable, and the unnameable." They made of it, therefore, a Boundless Circle, a Sphere, of which human intellect, with the utmost stretch, could only perceive the vault. In the words of one who has unriddled much in the Kabalistical system most thoroughly, in one of its meanings, in its numerical and geometrical esotericism :

Close your eyes, and from your own consciousness of perception try and think outward to the extremest limits in every direction. You will find that equal lines or rays of perception extend out evenly in all directions, so that the utmost effort of perception will terminate in the *vault of a sphere*. The limitation of this sphere will, of necessity, be a great *Circle*, and the direct rays of thought in any and every direction must be *right line radii* of the circle. This, then, *must* be, humanly speaking, the extremest all-embracing conception of the Ain Soph *manifest*, which formulates itself as a *geometrical figure*, viz., of a circle, with its elements of curved circumference and right line diameter divided into radii. Hence, a geometrical shape is the first recognizable means of connection between the Ain Soph and the intelligence of man.<sup>1</sup>

This Great Circle, which Eastern Esotericism reduces to the Point within the Boundless Circle, is the Avalokiteshvara, the *Logos*, or *Verbum*, of which T. Subba Row speaks. But this Circle or manifested God is as unknown to us, except through its *manifested* Universe, as is the ONE, though easier, or rather more possible to our highest conceptions. This Logos which sleeps in the bosom of Parabrahman, during Pralaya, as our "Ego is latent [in us] at the time of *sushupti*," or sleep, which cannot cognize Parabrahman otherwise than as *Mūlaprakriti*—the latter being a Cosmic Veil which is "the mighty expanse of cosmic matter"—is thus only an organ in cosmic Creation, through which radiate the Energy and Wisdom of Parabrahman, *unknown to the Logos, as it is to ourselves*. Moreover, as the Logos is as unknown to us as Parabrahman is unknown in reality to the Logos, both Eastern Esotericism and the Kabbalah, in order to bring the Logos within the range of our conceptions, have resolved the abstract synthesis into concrete images; viz., into the reflections or multiplied aspects of that Logos, or Avalokiteshvara, Brahmā, Ormazd, Osiris, Adam Kadmon, call it by any of these names—which aspects, or manvantaric emanations, are the Dhyān Chohans, the Elohim, the Devas, the Amshaspendis,

<sup>1</sup> *The Masonic Review*, June, 1886

etc. Metaphysicians explain the root and germ of the latter, according to T. Subba Row, as the first manifestation of Parabrahman, "the highest trinity that we are capable of understanding," which is *Mûlaprakriti* (the Veil), the Logos, and the conscious energy "of the latter," or its power and light, (called in the *Bhagavad Gitâ*, *Daiviprakriti*) or "matter, force and the Ego, or the one root of Self, of which every other kind of self is but a manifestation or a reflection." It is then only in this Light (of consciousness), of mental and physical perception, that *practical* Occultism can throw the Logos into visibility by geometrical figures, which, when closely studied, will yield not only a scientific explanation of the real, objective, existence<sup>1</sup> of the "Seven Sons of the Divine Sophia," which is this Light of the Logos, but will show, by means of other yet undiscovered keys, that, with regard to Humanity, these "Seven Sons" and their numberless emanations, centres of energy personified, are an absolute necessity. Make away with them, and the mystery of Being and Mankind will never be unriddled, nor even closely approached.

It is through *this Light* that everything is created. This ROOT of mental SELF is also the root of physical Self, for this Light is the permutation, in our manifested world, of *Mûlaprakriti*, called *Aditi* in the *Vedas*. In its third aspect it becomes *Vâch*,<sup>2</sup> the Daughter and the Mother of the Logos, as Isis is the Daughter and the Mother of Osiris, who is Horus, and Moot, the Daughter, Wife, and Mother, of Ammon, in the Egyptian Moon-glyph. In the *Kabalah*, *Sephira* is the same as *Shekinah*, and is, in another synthesis, the Wife, Daughter, and Mother of the Heavenly Man, Adam Kadmon, and is even identical with him, just as *Vâch* is identical with *Brahmâ*, and is called the female Logos. In the *Rig Veda*, *Vâch* is "mystic speech," by whom Occult Knowledge and Wisdom are communicated to man, and thus *Vâch* is said to have "entered the Rishis." She is "generated by the Gods"; she is the *divine Vâch*, the "Queen of gods", and she is associated, like *Sephira* with the *Sephiroth*, with the *Prajâpatis* in their work of creation. Moreover, she is called the "Mother of the *Vedas*," "since it is through her powers, [as mystic speech], that *Brahmâ* revealed them, and also owing to her power that he produced the Universe"; i.e., through Speech, and WORDS, synthesized by the "WORD" and numbers.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Objective—in the world of *Mâyâ*, of course, still as real as we are

<sup>2</sup> "In the course of cosmic manifestation, this *Daiviprakriti*, instead of being the mother of the Logos, should, strictly speaking, be called [his] daughter" (*The Theosophist*, 'Notes on the *Bhagavad Gitâ*,' Feb 1887, p. 305)

<sup>3</sup> The wise men who, like Stanley Jevons amongst the moderns, invented a method to make the incomprehensible assume a tangible form, could only do so by resorting to numbers and geometrical figures

But when Vâch is also spoken of as the daughter of Daksha, "the god who lives in all the Kalpas," her mâyâvic character is shown; during the *pralaya* she disappears, absorbed in the one, all-devouring Ray.

But there are two distinct aspects in universal Esotericism, Eastern and Western, in all these personations of the *female* Power in Nature, or Nature the *noumenal* and the *phenomenal*. One is its purely metaphysical aspect, as described by the learned lecturer in his "Notes on the *Bhagavad Gîtâ*"; the other terrestrial and physical, and at the same time *divine* from the standpoint of practical human conception and Occultism. They are all the symbols and personifications of *Chaos*, the "Great Deep," or the Primordial Waters of Space, the impenetrable VEIL between the INCOGNIZABLE and the Logos of Creation. "Connecting himself through his mind with Vâch, Brahmâ [the Logos] created the Primordial Waters." In the *Katha Upanishad* it is stated still more clearly :

Prajâpati was this Universe Vâch was a second to him He associated with her . she produced these creatures and again re-entered Prajâpati

[This connects Vâch and Sephira with the Goddess Kwan-Yin, the "Merciful Mother," the *divine VOICE of the Soul*, even in exoteric Buddhism, and with the female aspect of *Kwan-Shai-Yin*, the Logos, the *Verbum* of Creation, and at the same time with the Voice that speaks audibly to the Initiate, according to Esoteric Buddhism. Bath Kol, the *Filia Vocis*, the Daughter of the Divine Voice of the Hebrews, responding from the Mercy Seat within the Veil of the Temple is—a result.]

And here we may incidentally point out one of the many unjust slurs thrown by the "good and pious" missionaries in India on the religion of the land. The allegory, in the *Shatapatha Brâhmana*, that Brahmâ, as the Father of men, performed the work of procreation by incestuous intercourse with his own daughter Vâch, also called Sandhyâ, Twilight, and *Shatarûpâ* (hundred formed), is incessantly thrown in the teeth of the Brâhmins, as condemning their "detestable, false religion." Besides the fact, conveniently forgotten by the Europeans, that the Patriarch Lot is shown guilty of the same crime under the *human form*, whereas it was under the form of a buck that Brahmâ, or rather Prajâpati, accomplished the incest with his daughter, who had that of a hind (*rohî*), the esoteric reading of the third chapter of *Genesis* shows the same. Moreover, there is certainly a *cosmic*, and not a physiological, meaning attached to the Indian allegory, since Vâch is a permutation of Aditi and Mûlaprakriti (Chaos), and Brahmâ a permutation of Nârâyana, the Spirit of God entering into, and fructifying Nature; a d, therefore, there is nothing *phallic* in the conception at all.

As already stated, Aditi-Vâch is the female *Logos*, or *Verbum*, the "Word"; and Sephira in the *Kabalah* is the same. These feminine Logoi are all correlations, in their *noumenal* aspect, of Light, and Sound, and Ether, showing how well-informed were the Ancients both in Physical Science, as now known to the moderns, and also as to the birth of that Science in the Spiritual and Astral spheres.

Our old writers said that *Vâch* is of four kinds. These are called *Parâ*, *Pashyanti*, *Madhyamâ*, *Vaikhari*. This statement you will find in the *Rig Veda* itself and in several of the *Upanishads*. *Vaikhari Vâch* is what we utter

It is Sound, *Speech*, that again which becomes comprehensive and objective to one of our physical senses and may be brought under the laws of perception. Hence :

Every kind of *vaikhari Vâch* exists in its *madhyamâ* . . . *pashyanti* and ultimately in its *parâ* form. The reason why this *Pranava*<sup>1</sup> is called *Vâch* is this, that these four principles of the great Kosmos correspond to these four forms of *Vâch*. The whole Kosmos in its objective form is *vaikhari Vâch* the light of the *Logos* is the *madhyamâ* form, and the *Logos* itself the *pashyanti* form, and Parabrahman [is] the *parâ* [beyond the Noumenon of all Noumena] aspect of that *Vâch*<sup>2</sup>

Thus *Vâch*, *Shekinah*, or the "music of the spheres" of Pythagoras, are one, if we take for our example instances in the three most (apparently) dissimilar religious philosophies in the world, the Hindu, the Greek and the Chaldean Hebrew. These personations and allegories may be viewed under four (chief) and three (lesser) aspects, or seven in all, as in Esotericism. The *parâ* form is the ever subjective and latent Light and Sound, which exist eternally in the bosom of the INCOGNIZABLE; when transferred into the ideation of the *Logos*, or its latent *Light*, it is called *pashyanti*, and when it becomes that *Light expressed*, it is *madhyamâ*.

Now the *Kabalah* gives the definition thus :

There are three kinds of light, and that [the fourth] which interpenetrates the others ; (1) the clear and the penetrating, the *objective* light, (2) the *reflected* light, and (3) the *abstract* light

The ten Sephiroth, the *Three* and the *Seven*, are called in the *Kabalah* the Ten Words, *DBRIM* (*Debarim*), the Numbers and the Emanations of the Heavenly Light, which is both Adam Kadmon and Sephira, *Prajâpati-Vâch*, or *Brahmâ*. Light, Sound, Number, are the three factors of creation in the *Kabalah*. Parabrahman cannot be known except through the luminous Point,

<sup>1</sup> The *Pranava*, Om, is a mystic term pronounced by Yogis during meditation, of the terms called, according to exoteric commentators, *Vyâkritis*, or Aum, Bhûh, Bhuvah, Svah, (Om, Earth, Sky, Heaven). *Pranava* is, perhaps, the most sacred. They are pronounced with breath suppressed. See *Manu*, II, 76-81, and Vignânesvara commenting in *Mitâkshara* on the *Yâjñavalkya-Smriti*, I, 23. But the esoteric explanation goes a great deal further

<sup>2</sup> *The Theosophist*, Feb., 1887, p. 307.

(the LOGOS), which knows not *Parabrahman* but only *Mûlaprakṛiti*. Similarly Adam Kadmon knew only Shekinah, though he was the *vehicle* of Ain Soph. And as Adam Kadmon, he is, in the Esoteric interpretation, the total of the Number Ten, the Sephiroth (himself a Trinity), or the three attributes of the *incognizable* DEITY in one.<sup>1</sup> "When the Heavenly Man (or Logos) first assumed the form of the Crown<sup>2</sup> [Kether] and identified himself with Sephira, he caused Seven splendid Lights to emanate from it [the Crown]," which made in their totality Ten; so Brahmâ-Prajâpati, once he became separated from, yet identical with Vâch, caused the seven Rishis, the seven Manus or Prajâpatis, to issue from that Crown. In *exotericism* one will always find 10 and 7, of either Sephira or Prajâpati; in *esoteric* rendering always 3 and 7, which yield also 10. Only when divided, in the manifested sphere, into 3 and 7, they form ⊕, the androgyne, and ⊕, or the figure X manifested and differentiated.

This will help the student to understand why Pythagoras esteemed the Deity, the Logos, to be the Centre of Unity and "Source of Harmony." We say this Deity was the LOGOS, not the MONAD that dwelleth in Solitude and Silence, because Pythagoras taught that UNITY being indivisible is *no number*. And this is also why it was required of the candidate, who applied for admittance into his school, that he should have already studied as a preliminary step, the sciences of Arithmetic, Astronomy, Geometry and *Music*, which were held to be the four divisions of Mathematics.<sup>3</sup> Again, this explains why the Pythagoreans asserted that the doctrine of Numbers, the chief of all in Esotericism, had been revealed to man by the Celestial Deities; that the World had been called forth out of Chaos by Sound, or Harmony, and constructed according to the principles of musical proportion; that the seven planets which rule the destiny of mortals have a harmonious motion and, as Censorinus says.

Intervals corresponding to musical diastemes, rendering various sounds, so perfectly consonant, that they produce the sweetest melody, which is inaudible to us, only by reason of the greatness of the sound, which our ears are incapable of receiving

In the Pythagorean Theogony, the Hierarchies of the Heavenly Host and Gods were numbered, and also expressed numerically. Pythagoras

<sup>1</sup> It is this Trinity that is meant by the "three steps of Vishnu," which mean—Vishnu being considered as the *Infinite* in exotericism—that from Parabrahman issued Mûlaprakṛiti, Purusha (the Logos) and Prakṛiti, the four forms—with itself, the synthesis—of Vâch. And in the *Kabalah*, Ain Soph, Shekinah, Adam Kadmon and Sephira, the four—or the three—emanations being distinct—yet ONE.

<sup>2</sup> *Chaldean Book of Numbers*. In the current *Kabalah* the name Jehovah replaces that of Adam Kadmon.

<sup>3</sup> Justin Martyr tells us that, owing to his ignorance of these four sciences, he was rejected by the Pythagoreans as a candidate for admission into their school.



had studied Esoteric Science in India ; therefore we find his pupils saying :

The Monad [the manifested One] is the principle of all things From the Monad and the indeterminate Duad (Chaos), *Numbers* , from Numbers, *Points* , from Points, *Lines* , from Lines, *Superficies* , from Superficies, *Solids* , from these, Solid Bodies, whose Elements are four, Fire, Water, Air, Earth , of all which transmuted [correlated], and totally changed, the World consists <sup>1</sup>

And this, if it does not unriddle the mystery altogether, may at any rate lift a corner of the veil off those wondrous allegories that have been thrown over Vâch, the most mysterious of all the Brâhmanical Goddesses , she who is termed “ the melodious Cow who milked forth sustenance and Water ”—the Earth with all her mystic powers , and again she “ who yields us nourishment and sustenance ”—the physical Earth. *Isis* is also mystic Nature and also Earth ; and her cow's horns identify her with Vâch, who, after being recognized in her highest form as *Parâ*, becomes, at the lower or material end of creation, *Vaikhari*. Hence she is mystic, though physical, Nature, with all her magic ways and properties.

Again, as goddess of Speech and of Sound, and a permutation of Aditi, she is *Chaos*, in one sense At any rate, she is the “ Mother of the Gods,” and it is from *Brahmâ*, *Îshvara* or the Logos, and Vâch, as from Adam Kadmon and Sephira, that the real *manifested* Theogony has to start. Beyond, all is Darkness and abstract speculation. With the Dhyân Chohans or the Gods, the Seers, the Prophets and the Adepts in general are on firm ground. Whether as Aditi, or the *divine* Sophia of the Greek Gnostics, she is the mother of the Seven Sons, the “ Angels of the Face,” of the “ Deep,” or the “ Great Green One ” of the *Book of the Dead*. Says the *Book of Dzyan* (Knowledge, through meditation) :

The Great Mother lay with the  $\Delta$ , and the  $\mid$ , and the  $\square$ , the second  $\mid$  and the  $\star$ ,<sup>2</sup> in her Bosom, ready to bring them forth, the valiant Sons of the  $\square \Delta \mid \mid$  [or 4.320,000, the Cycle], whose two Elders are the  $\bigcirc$  [Circle] and the  $\cdot$  [Point].

At the beginning of every Cycle of 4,320,000, the Seven, or as some nations had it Eight, Great Gods, descend to establish the new order of things and to give the impetus to the new cycle. That eighth God was the unifying Circle, or LOGOS, separated and made distinct from its Host, in exoteric dogma, just as the three divine *hypostases* of the ancient Greeks are

<sup>1</sup> Diogenes Laertius, in *Vit Pythag*

<sup>2</sup> 31415, or  $\pi$ , the synthesis, or the Host unified in the Logos and the Point, called in Roman Catholicism the “ Angel of the Face,” and in Hebrew, Michael, מִיכָאֵל, “ who is [like unto, or the same] as God,” the manifested representation

now considered in the Churches as three distinct *personæ*. As a Commentary says :

*The MIGHTY ONES perform their great works, and leave behind them everlasting monuments to commemorate their visit, every time they penetrate within our mââyâvic veil [atmosphere].*<sup>1</sup>

Thus we are taught that the great Pyramids were built under their direct supervision, "when *Dhruva* [the then Pole-star], was at his lowest culmination, and the *Krittikâs* [Pleiades] looked over his head [were on the same meridian but above] to watch the work of the Giants." Thus, as the first Pyramids were built at the beginning of a Sidereal Year, under *Dhruva* (Alpha Polaris), it must have been over 31,000 years (31,105) ago. Bunsen was right in admitting for Egypt an antiquity of over 21,000 years, but this concession hardly exhausts truth and fact in this question. As Mr. Gerald Massey says :

The stories told by Egyptian priests and others of time-keeping in Egypt are now beginning to look less like lies in the sight of all who have escaped from their biblical bondage. Inscriptions have lately been found at Sakkarah, making mention of two Sothic cycles registered at that time, now some 6,000 years ago. Thus when Herodotus was in Egypt, the Egyptians had—as now known—observed at least five different Sothic cycles of 1,461 years . . .

The priests informed the Greek enquirer that time had been reckoned by them for so long that the sun had twice risen where it then set, and twice set where it then arose. This can only be realized as a fact in nature by means of two cycles of Precession, or a period of 51,736 years.<sup>2</sup>

Mor Isaac<sup>3</sup> shows the ancient Syrians defining their World of the "Rulers" and "Active Gods" in the same way as the Chaldeans. The lowest World was the *SUBLUNARY*—our own—watched by the "Angels" of the first or lower order; the one that came next in rank, was Mercury, ruled by the "ARCHANGELS" then came Venus, whose Gods were the *PRINCIPALITIES*, the fourth was that of the *SUN*, the domain and region of the highest and mightiest Gods of our system, the solar Gods of all nations; the fifth was Mars, ruled by the "VIRTUES", the sixth, that of *Bel* or Jupiter, was governed by the *DOMINIONS*, the seventh, the World of Saturn, by the *THRONES*. These are the Worlds of Form. Above come the Four higher ones, making Seven again, since the Three *highest* are "unmentionable and unpronounceable." The eighth, composed of 1,122 stars, is the domain of the *Cherubs*, the ninth, belonging to the *walking* and numberless stars on account of their distance, has the *Seraphs*; as to the tenth, Kircher, quoting Mor Isaac, says that it is

<sup>1</sup> Appearing at the beginning of Cycles, as also of every Sidereal Year, of 25,868 years. Therefore, the *Kabeiri* or *Kabarim* received their name in Chaldea, for it means the Measures of Heaven, from *Kob*, "measure of," and *Urim*, "Heavens."

<sup>2</sup> *The Natural Genesis*, II, p. 318.

<sup>3</sup> See Kircher's *Œdipus Ægyptiacus*, II, p. 423.

composed "of invisible stars that could be taken, they said, for clouds, so massed are they in the zone that we call *Via Straminis*, the Milky Way"; and he hastens to explain that "these are the stars of Lucifer, engulfed with him in his terrible shipwreck." That which comes after and beyond the ten Worlds (our Quaternary), or the *Arûpa* World, the Syrians could not tell. "All they knew was that it is there that begins the vast and incomprehensible ocean of the infinite, the abode of the true divinity, without boundary or end."

Champollion shows the same belief among the Egyptians. Hermes having spoken of the Father-Mother and Son, whose Spirit—collectively the DIVINE FIAT—shapes the Universe, says: "Seven Agents [Media] were also formed, to contain the Material [or manifested] Worlds within their respective Circles, and the action of these Agents was named Destiny." He further enumerates seven and ten and twelve orders, but it would take too long to detail them here.

As the *Rig Vidhâna* together with the *Brahmânda Purâna* and all such works, whether describing the magic efficacy of the *Rig Vedic Mantras*, or the future Kalpas, are declared by Prof. Weber and others to be *modern compilations* "belonging probably only to the time of the *Purânas*," it is useless to refer the reader to their mystic explanations, and one may as well simply quote from the archaic books utterly unknown to the Orientalists. These works explain that which so puzzles the scholars, namely that the *Saptarishis*, the "Mind-born Sons" of Brahîa, are referred to in the *Shatapatha Brâhmana* under one set of names, in the *Mahabhârata* under another set, and that the *Vâyû Purâna* makes even *nine* instead of seven Rishis, by adding the names of Bhṛigu and Dakṣha to the list. But the same occurs in every exoteric Scripture. The Secret Doctrine gives a long genealogy of Rishis, but separates them into many classes. Like the Gods of the Egyptians, who were divided into seven, and even twelve, Classes, so are the Indian Rishis in their Hierarchies. The first three groups are the Divine, the Cosmical and the Sublunary. Then come the Solar Gods of our System, the Planetary, the Submundane, and the purely Human—the Heroes and the Mânushi.

At present, however, we are only concerned with the Pre-cosmic, Divine Gods, the Prajâpatis, or the "Seven Builders." This group is found unmistakably in every Cosmogony. Owing to the loss of Egyptian archaic documents, since, according to M. Maspero, "the materials and historical data on hand to study the history of the religious evolution in Egypt are neither complete nor very often intelligible," the ancient Hymns and inscriptions on the tombs must be appealed to, in order to have the statements brought forward from the SECRET DOCTRINE partially and indirectly

corroborated. One such shows that Osiris, like Brahmā-Prajāpati, Adam Kadmon, Ormazd, and so many other Logoi, was the chief and synthesis of the group of "Creators" or Builders. Before Osiris became the "One" and the *highest* God of Egypt, he was worshipped at Abydos as the Head, or Leader, of the Heavenly Host of the Builders belonging to the higher of the three Orders. The Hymn engraved on the votive stele of a tomb from Abydos (3rd register) addresses Osiris thus :

Salutations to thee, O Osiris, elder son of Seb, thou the greatest over the six Gods issued from the Goddess Noo [primordial Water], thou the great favourite of thy father Ra, Father of Fathers, King of Duration, Master in the Eternity who, as soon as these issued from thy Mother's Bosom, gathered all the Crowns and attached the Uræus [serpent or *naja*]<sup>1</sup> on thy head, multiform God, whose name is unknown and who has many names in towns and provinces.

Coming out from the primordial Water crowned with the *uræus*, which is the serpent-emblem of Cosmic Fire, and himself the *seventh* over the six primary Gods, issued from Father-Mother, Noo and Noot, the Sky, who can Osiris be, but the chief Prajāpati, the chief Sephira, the chief Amshaspend, Ormazd! That this latter solar and cosmic God stood, in the beginning of religious evolution, in the same position as the Archangel, "whose name was secret," is certain. This Archangel was Michael, the representative on earth of the *Hidden Jewish God*; in short, it is his "Face" that is said to have gone before the Jews like a "Pillar of Fire." Burnouf says: "The seven Amshaspendes, who are most assuredly our Archangels, designate also the personifications of the divine Virtues."<sup>2</sup> And these Archangels, therefore, are as certainly the Saptarishis of the Hindus, though it is next to impossible to class each with its Pagan prototype and parallel, since, as in the case of Osiris, they have all so "many names in towns and provinces." Some of the most important, however, will be shown in their order.

One thing is thus undeniably proven. The more we study their Hierarchies and find out their identity, the more proofs we acquire that there is not one of the past or present *personal* Gods, known to us from the earliest days of History, that does not belong to the third stage of Cosmic manifestation. In every religion we find the concealed Deity forming the ground work; then the Ray therefrom, that falls into primordial Cosmic Matter, the *first* manifestation; then the Androgyne result, the dual Male and Female, abstract Force personified, the *second* stage, this finally separates itself, in the *third*, into Seven Forces, called the creative Powers by all the ancient religions, and the

<sup>1</sup> This Egyptian word *Naja* reminds one a good deal of the Indian *Nāga*, the Serpent-God Brahmā and Shiva and Vishnu are all crowned and connected with *Nāgas*—a sign of their cyclic and cosmic character

<sup>2</sup> *Comment on the Yashna*, p. 274.

“Virtues of God” by the Christians. The later explanations and abstract metaphysical qualifications have not prevented the Roman and Greek Churches from worshipping these “Virtues” under the personifications and distinct names of the Seven Archangels. In the *Book of Druschim*,<sup>1</sup> in the *Talmud*, a distinction between these groups is given which is the correct Kabalistical explanation. It says .

There are three groups (or orders) of Sephiroth 1st The Sephiroth called the “Divine Attributes” [abstract] 2nd The physical or *sidereal* Sephiroth [personal] —one group of seven, the other of ten. 3rd The metaphysical Sephiroth, or *periphrasis* of *Jehovah*, who are the first three Sephiroth [Kether, Chokmah and Binah], the rest of the seven being the (personal) seven Spirits of the Presence [also of the planets]

The same division has to be applied to the primary, secondary and tertiary evolution of Gods in every Theogony, if one wishes to translate the meaning esoterically. We must not confuse the purely metaphysical personifications of the *abstract* attributes of Deity, with their reflection—the *Sidereal* Gods. This reflection, however, is in reality the objective expression of the abstraction; *living* Entities and the models formed on that divine Prototype. Moreover, the three metaphysical Sephiroth, or the “*periphrasis of Jehovah*,” are not Jehovah. It is the latter himself, with the additional titles of Adonai, Elohim, Sabaoth, and the numerous names lavished on him, who is the periphrasis of the Shaddai (שדי), the Omnipotent. The name is a circumlocution, indeed, a too abundant figure of Jewish rhetoric, and has always been denounced by the Occultists. To the Jewish Kabalists, and even the Christian Alchemists and Rosicrucians, Jehovah was a convenient screen, unified by the folding of its many panels, and adopted as a substitute; one name of an individual Sephira being as good as another name, for those who had the secret. The Tetragrammaton, the Ineffable, the *Sidereal* “*Sum Total*,” was invented for no other purpose than to mislead the profane and to symbolize life and generation.<sup>2</sup> The real secret and *unpronounceable* Name, the “Word that is no word,” has to be sought in the seven names of the first Seven Emanations, or the “Sons of the Fire,” in the secret Scriptures of all the great nations, and even in the *Zohar*, the Kabalistic lore of the smallest of all of them, the Jewish. This word, composed of seven letters in every tongue, is found embodied in

<sup>1</sup> First Treatise, p. 59

<sup>2</sup> Says the translator of Avicbron's *Qabbalah* of this “Sum Total” “The letter of Kether is י (Yod), of Binah ה (Hé), together YaH, the feminine Name, the third letter, that of 'Hokhmah, is ך (Vau), making together יהוה YHV of יהוה YHVH, the Tetragrammaton, and really the complete symbols of its efficaciousness. The last ה (Hé) of this Ineffable Name being always applied to the Six Lower and the last, together the Seven remaining Sephiroth” (Myer's *Qabbalah*, p. 263) Thus the Tetragrammaton is holy only in its abstract synthesis. As a Quaternary containing the lower Seven Sephiroth, it is phallic

the architectural remains of every great sacred building in the world ; from the Cyclopean remains on Easter Island—part of a Continent buried under the seas nearer 4,000,000 years ago<sup>1</sup> than 20,000—down to the earliest Egyptian pyramids.

We shall have to enter more fully into this subject later on, and to bring practical illustrations to prove the statements made in the text.

For the present it is sufficient to show, by a few instances, the truth of what has been asserted at the beginning of this work, namely, that no Cosmogony, the world over, with the sole exception of the Christian, has ever attributed to the One Highest Cause, the UNIVERSAL Deific Principle, the immediate creation of our earth, or man, or anything connected with these. This statement holds as well for the Hebrew or Chaldean *Kabalah* as it does for *Genesis*, had the latter been ever thoroughly understood and, what is still more important, correctly translated.<sup>2</sup> Everywhere there is either a LOGOS—a “LIGHT shining in DARKNESS,” truly—or the Architect of the Worlds is esoterically in the plural number. The Latin Church, paradoxical as ever, while applying the epithet of Creator to Jehovah alone, adopts a whole *Kyriel* of names for the *working FORCES of the latter*, names which betray the secret. For if the said Forces had nought to do with “Creation” so-called, why call them Elohim (Alhim), a plural word ; “divine workmen” and Energies (*Ενέργειαι*), incandescent celestial stones (*lapides igniti cælorum*) ; and especially supporters of the World (*Κοσμοκράτορες*), Governors or Rulers of the World (*rectores mundi*), “Wheels”

<sup>1</sup> The statement will, of course, be found preposterous and absurd, and simply laughed at. But if one believes in the final submersion of Atlantis, 850,000 years ago, as taught in *Esoteric Buddhism*—the gradual first sinking having begun during the Eocene Age—one has also to accept the statement for the so-called Lemuria, the continent of the Third Root-Race, which was first nearly destroyed by combustion, and then submerged. As the Commentary teaches “*The first earth having been purified by the forty-nine fires, her people, born of Fire and Water, could not die* . . . the Second Earth [with its Race] disappeared as vapour vanishes in the air . . . the Third Earth had everything consumed on it after the separation, and went down into the lower Deep [the Ocean]. This was twice eighty-two cyclic years ago.” Now a cyclic year is what we call a sidereal year, and is founded on the precession of the equinoxes. The length of this Sidereal Year is 25,868 years, and the period mentioned in the Commentary is, therefore, in all equal to 4,242,352 years. More details will be found in Volumes 3 and 4. Meanwhile, this doctrine is embodied in the “Kings of Edom.”

<sup>2</sup> The same reserve is found in the *Talmud* and in every national system of religion whether monotheistic or exoterically polytheistic. From the superb religious poem by the Kabalist Rabbi Solomon ben Yehudah Ibn Gebirol, the “Kether Malchuth,” we select a few definitions given in the prayers of Kippûr: “Thou art One, the beginning of all numbers, and the foundation of all edifices, Thou art One, and in the secret of Thy unity the wisest of men are lost, because they know it not. Thou art One, and Thy Unity is never diminished, never extended, and cannot be changed. Thou art One, but not as an element of numeration, for Thy Unity admits not of multiplication, change or form. Thou art Existent, but the understanding and vision of mortals cannot attain to thy existence, nor determine for thee the Where, the How, and the Why. Thou art Existent, but in thyself alone, there being none other that can exist with thee. Thou art Existent, before all time and without place. Thou art Existent, and thy existence is so profound and secret that none can penetrate and discover thy secrecy. Thou art Living, but within no time that can be fixed or known, Thou art Living, but not by a spirit or a soul, for Thou art Thyself, the Soul of all Souls.” There is a distance between this Kabalistical Deity and the Biblical Jehovah, the spiteful and revengeful God of Abram, Isaac, and Jacob, who tempted the first and wrestled with the last. No Vedântin but would repudiate such a Parabrahman!

of the World (*Rotæ, Auphanim*), Flames and POWERS, "Sons of God" (*B'ne Alhim*), Vigilant Counsellors etc. ?<sup>1</sup>

It is often asserted, and unjustly, as usual, that China, nearly as old a country as India, had no Cosmogony. It was unknown to Confucius, and the Buddhists extended their Cosmogony without introducing a Personal God,<sup>2</sup> it is complained. The *Yi-King*, "the very essence of ancient thought and the combined work of the most venerated sages," fails to show a distinct Cosmogony. Nevertheless, one exists, and a very distinct one. Only as Confucius did not admit of a future life<sup>3</sup> and the Chinese Buddhists reject the idea of One Creator, accepting one Cause and its numberless effects, they are misunderstood by the believers in a *personal* God. The "great-Extreme," as the commencement of "changes" (transmigrations), is the shortest and, perhaps, the most suggestive of all Cosmogonies for those who, like the Confucianists, love virtue for its own sake and try to do good unselfishly without perpetually looking to reward and profit. The "great Extreme" of Confucius produces "Two Figures." These Two produce in their turn the "Four Images"; these again the "Eight Symbols." It is complained that though the Confucianists see in them "heaven, earth and man in miniature," we can see in them anything we like. No doubt, and so it is with regard to many symbols, especially those of the latest religions. But they who know something of Occult numerals, see in these "Figures" the symbol, however rude, of a harmonious progressive Evolution of Kosmos and its beings, both Heavenly and Terrestrial. And one who has studied the numerical evolution in the primeval Cosmogony of Pythagoras—a contemporary of Confucius—can never fail to find in his *Triad*, *Tetractys* and *Decad*, emerging from the ONE and solitary Monad, the same idea. Confucius is laughed at by his Christian biographer for "talking of divination," before and after this passage, and is represented as saying

The eight symbols determine good and ill fortune, and these lead to great deeds. There are no imitable images greater than heaven and earth. There are no changes greater than the four seasons [meaning North, South, East and West, etc.] There are no suspended images brighter than the sun and moon. In preparing *things for use*, there is none greater than the sage. In determining good and ill-luck there is nothing greater than the *divining straws and the tortoise* <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See De Mirville, *Des Esprits*, Vol. II, p. 294

<sup>2</sup> See Edkins, *Chinese Buddhism*, ch. xx. And very wisely have they acted

<sup>3</sup> If he rejected it, it was on the ground of what he calls the "changes," in other words, rebirths of man, and constant transformations. He denied immortality to the *personality* of man, as we do, not to MAN.

<sup>4</sup> He may be laughed at by the Protestants, but the Roman Catholics have no right to mock him, without becoming guilty of blasphemy and sacrilege. For it is over 200 years since Confucius was canonized as a Saint in China by the Roman Catholics, who have thereby obtained many converts among the ignorant Confucianists.

Therefore, the "divining straws" and the "tortoise," the "symbolic sets of lines," and the great sage who looks at them as they become one and two, and two become four, four become eight, and the other sets "three and six," are laughed to scorn, only because his wise symbols are misunderstood.

So the author of the volume cited and his colleagues will no doubt scoff at the STANZAS given in our text, for they represent *precisely the same idea*. The old archaic map of Cosmogony is full of lines in the Confucian style, of concentric circles and dots. Yet all these represent the most abstract and philosophical conceptions of the Cosmogony of our Universe. At all events it may, perhaps, answer better to the requirements and the scientific purposes of our age, than the cosmogonical essays of St. Augustine and the Venerable Bede, though these were published over a millennium later than the Confucian.

Confucius, one of the greatest sages of the ancient world, believed in ancient magic, and practised it himself, "if we take for granted the statements of *Kià-yu*", and "he praised it to the skies in the *Yi-king*," we are told by his reverend critic. Nevertheless, even in his age, 600 B.C., Confucius and his school taught the sphericity of the earth and even the heliocentric system; while, at about thrice 600 years after the Chinese philosopher, the Popes of Rome threatened and even burnt "heretics" for asserting the same. He is laughed at for speaking of the "Sacred Tortoise." No unprejudiced person can see any great difference between a *tortoise* and a *lamb* as candidates for sacredness, as both are symbols and no more. The Ox, the Eagle<sup>1</sup> and the Lion, and occasionally the Dove are the "sacred animals" of the Western Bible, the first three are found grouped round the Evangelists; the fourth, associated with these, a human face, is a Seraph, i.e., a "fiery serpent," the Gnostic Agathodæmon probably.

[The choice is curious, and shows how paradoxical were the first Christians in their selections. For why should they have chosen these symbols of Egyptian Paganism, when the Eagle is never mentioned in the *New Testament*

<sup>1</sup> The animals regarded as sacred in the Bible are by no means few in number, as, for instance, the Goat, the Azazel, or God of Victory. As Aben Ezra says "If thou art capable of comprehending the mystery of Azazel, thou wilt learn the mystery of His [God's] name, for it has similar associates in Scriptures. I will tell thee by allusion one portion of the mystery. when thou shalt have *thirty three years of age* thou wilt comprehend me." So with the mystery of the *tortoise*. Rejoicing over the poetry of Biblical metaphors, associating "incandescent stones," "sacred animals," etc., with the name of Jehovah, and quoting from the *Bible de Vence* (XIX, p. 318) a pious French writer says "Indeed all of them are Elohim, like their God", for, these Angels, "'assume,' through a holy usurpation, 'the divine name of Jehovah each time they represent him'" (De Mirville, *Des Esprits*, Vol. II, p. 294). No one ever doubted that the NAME must have been assumed, when under the guise of the Infinite, One Incognizable, the Malachim, or Messengers, descended to eat and drink with men. But if the Elohim and even lower Beings, assuming the God-name, were and are still worshipped, why should the same Elohim be called Devils, when appearing under the names of other Gods?



save once, when Jesus refers to it as a *carrion eater*,<sup>1</sup> and in the *Old Testament* it is called *unclean*, when the Lion is made a point of comparison with *Satan*, both roaring for men to devour; and the Oxen are driven out of the Temple? On the other hand the Serpent, brought in as an exemplar of wisdom, is now regarded as the symbol of the Devil. The esoteric pearl of Christ's religion, degraded into Christian theology, may indeed be said to have chosen a strange and unfitting *shell* to be born in and evolved from.]

As explained, the "Sacred Animals" and the Flames or "Sparks," within the "Holy Four," refer to the Prototypes of all that is found in the Universe in the *Divine Thought*, in the ROOT, which is the Perfect Cube, or the Foundation of the Kosmos, collectively and individually. They have all an occult reference to primordial Cosmic Forms, and its first concretions, work, and evolution.

In the earliest Hindu exoteric Cosmogonies, it is not even the Demiurge who creates. For it is said in one of the *Purânas* :

The great Architect of the World gives the first impulse to the rotatory motion of our planetary system by stepping in turn over each planet and body

It is this action "that causes each sphere to turn around itself, and all around the Sun." After which action, "it is the *Brahmândika*," the Solar and Lunar Pitris, the Dhyân Chohans, "who take charge of their respective spheres [earths and planets], to the end of the Kalpa." The Creators are the Rishis, most of whom are credited with the authorship of the Mantras, or Hymns, of the *Rig Veda*. They are sometimes seven, sometimes ten, when they become *Prajâpati*, "the Lord of Beings," then they rebecome the seven and the fourteen Manus, as the representatives of the seven and fourteen cycles of Existence, or Days of *Brahmâ*, thus answering to the seven *Æons*, when, at the end of the first stage of Evolution, they are transformed into the seven stellar Rishis, the Saptarishis, while their *human* doubles appear as Heroes, Kings and Sages on this earth

The Esoteric Doctrine of the East having thus furnished and struck the key-note, which, under its allegorical garb, is, as may be seen, as scientific as it is philosophical and poetical, every nation has followed its lead. It is from the exoteric religions that we have to dig out the root-idea before we turn to esoteric truths, lest the latter should be rejected. Furthermore, every symbol, in every national religion, may be read esoterically, and the proof of its being correctly read when transliterated into its corresponding numerals and geometrical forms, may be obtained from the extraordinary agreement of all glyphs and symbols, however much they may externally vary among themselves. For

<sup>1</sup> *Matth*, xxiv, 28

in the origin those symbols were all identical. Take, for instance, the opening sentences in various Cosmogonies ; in every case it is a *circle*, an *egg*, or a *head*. DARKNESS is always associated with this first symbol and surrounds it, as is shown in the Hindu, the Egyptian, the Chaldeo-Hebrew and even the Scandinavian systems. Hence black ravens, black doves, black waters and even black flames ; the *seventh* tongue of Agni, the *fire-god* being called Kâli, the "Black," since it was a black flickering flame. Two *black* doves flew from Egypt and, settling on the oaks of Dodona, gave their names to the Grecian Gods. Noah sends out a *black* raven after the Deluge, which is a symbol for the Cosmic Pralaya, after which began the real creation or evolution of our Earth and Humanity. Odin's "black" ravens fluttered round the Goddess Saga and "whispered to her of the past and of the future." Now what is the inner meaning of all those black birds ? It is that they are all connected with the primeval Wisdom, which flows out of the pre-cosmic Source of All, symbolised by the Head, the Circle or the Egg, and they all have an identical meaning and relate to the primordial Archetypal Man, Adam Kadmon, the creative origin of all things, which is composed of the Host of Cosmic Powers—the Creative Dhyân Chohans, beyond which all is Darkness.

Let us enquire of the wisdom of the Kabbalah, even veiled and distorted as it now is, to explain in its numerical language an approximate meaning, at least of the word "raven." This is its number value as given in the *Source of Measures* :

The term *raven* is used but once, and taken as Eth-h' orebv אֶת-הָעֹרֵב=678, or  $113 \times 6$ , while the Dove is mentioned five times. Its value is 71, and  $71 \times 5 \parallel 355$ . Six diameters, or the Raven, crossing, would divide the circumference of a circle of 355 into 12 parts or compartments, and 355 subdivided for each unit by 6, would equal 213.0, or the *head* ["beginning"] in the first verse of *Genesis*. This divided, or subdivided, after the same fashion, by 2, or the 355 by 12, would give  $213 \times 2$ , or the word B'râsh, בִּרְאֵשׁ, or the first word of *Genesis*, with its prepositional prefix, signifying the same concreted general form, astronomically, with the one here intended.<sup>1</sup>

Now the secret reading of the first verse in *Genesis* being : "In Râsh (B'râsh)<sup>2</sup> or Head, developed Gods, the Heavens and the Earth"—it is easy to comprehend the esoteric meaning of the *Raven*, once that the like meaning of the Flood, or Noah's Deluge, is ascertained. Whatever the many other meanings of this emblematical allegory may be, its *chief* meaning is that of a new Cycle and a new Round—our *Fourth Round*.<sup>3</sup> The "Raven," or the

<sup>1</sup> Key to the Hebrew-Egyptian Mystery in the *Source of Measures*, App V, p. 249 (printed ed 1875) [See Additional Notes]

<sup>2</sup> Baraush

<sup>3</sup> Bryant is right in saying "Druid Bardesin says of Noah that when he came out of the ark (the birth of a new cycle), after a stay therein of a year and a day, that is 364+1=365 days, he was congratulated by Neptune upon his birth from the waters of the Flood, who wished him a happy New Year." The "Year," or cycle, esoterically, was the new race of men, born from woman, after the separation of the sexes, which is the secondary meaning of the allegory, its primary meaning being the beginning of the Fourth Round, or the new Creation

*Eth-h' orebv*, yields the same numerical value as the "Head," and returned not to the Ark, while the Dove returned, carrying the olive-branch ; when Noah, the new man of the new Race (whose prototype is Vaivasvata Manu), prepared to leave the Ark, the Womb, or *Argha*, of terrestrial Nature, he is the symbol of the purely spiritual, sexless and androgyne man of the first three Races, who vanished from Earth for ever. Numerically, in the *Kabalah*, Jehovah, Adam, Noah, are one. At best, then, it is Deity descending on Ararat, and later on Sinai, to incarnate henceforth in man, his *image*, through the natural process, the mother's womb, whose symbols are the Ark, the Mount (Sinai), etc., in *Genesis*. The Jewish allegory is at once astronomical and physiological, rather than anthropomorphic.

And here lies the abyss between the Âryan and Semitic systems, though both are built on the same foundation. As shown by an expounder of the *Kabalah* :

The basic idea underlying the religious philosophy of the Hebrews was that God contained all things within himself and that man was *his image*—man, including woman, [as androgynes, and that] geometry (and numbers and measures applicable to astronomy) are contained in the terms *man* and *woman*, and the apparent incongruity of such a mode was eliminated by showing the connection of man and woman with a particular system of numbers and measures and geometry, by the parturient time-periods, which furnished the connecting link between the terms used and the facts shown, and perfected the mode used<sup>1</sup>.

It is argued that, the primal cause being absolutely incognizable, "the symbol of its first *comprehensible manifestation* was the conception of a circle with its diameter line, so as at once to carry the idea of geometry, phallicism, and astronomy", and this was finally applied to the "signification of simply human generative organs." Hence the whole cycle of events from Adam and the Patriarchs down to Noah is made to apply to phallic and astronomical uses, the one regulating the other, as the lunar periods, for instance. Hence, too, their *genesis* begins after their coming out of the Ark, and the end of the Flood, i.e., at the Fourth Race. With the Âryan people it is different.

Eastern Esotericism has never degraded the One Infinite Deity, the container of all things, to such uses, and this is shown by the absence of Brahmâ from the *Rig Veda*, and the modest positions occupied therein by Rudra and Vishnu, who became the powerful and great Gods, the "Infinities" of the exoteric creeds, ages later. But even they, "Creators" as they all three may be, are not the direct "Creators" and "forefathers of men." The latter are shown occupying a still lower scale, and are called the *Prajâpatis*,

<sup>1</sup> From an unpublished MS, pp 11-2. See also *Source of Measures*.

the Pitris, our Lunar Ancestors, etc., but never the "One Infinite God." Esoteric Philosophy shows only *physical* man as created *in the image* of the Deity, which Deity, however, is only the "*minor Gods*." It is the HIGHER-SELF, the real EGO, who alone is divine and GOD.

## SECTION 13

### THE SEVEN CREATIONS

THERE was neither day nor night, nor sky nor earth, nor darkness nor light, nor any other thing, save only One, unapprehensible by intellect, or That which is Brahma and Pums (spirit) and Pradhāna ([crude] matter)

Or literally "One Prādhānika Brahman Spirit THAT was" The "Prādhānika Brahma Spirit" is Mūlaprakṛiti and Parabrahman <sup>1</sup>

In *Vishnu Purāna*, Parāshara says to Maitreya, his pupil.

I have thus explained to you, excellent Muni, six creations the creation of the Arvāksrotas beings was the seventh, and was that of man <sup>2</sup>

Then he proceeds to speak of two additional and very mysterious creations, variously interpreted by the commentators.

Origen, commenting upon the books written by Celsus, his [Gnostic] opponent—books which were all destroyed by the prudent Church Fathers—evidently answers the objections of his contradictor and reveals his system at the same time. This was clearly *septenary*. But the theogony [of Celsus], the genesis of the stars or planets, and of sound and colour, found as an answer satire, and no more. Celsus, you see, "desiring to exhibit his learning," speaks of a ladder of creation with *seven gates*, and on the top of it the eighth, ever closed. The mysteries of the Persian Mithras are explained and "musical reasons, moreover, are added." And to these again he strives "to add a second explanation connected also with musical considerations," <sup>3</sup> that is to say with the seven notes of the scale, the seven Spirits of the Stars, etc.

Valentinus expatiates upon the power of the great Seven, who were summoned to bring forth this universe after Ar(r)hetos, or the Ineffable, whose name is composed of seven letters, had represented the first *hebdomad*. The name Ar(r)hetos indicates the sevenfold nature of the One, the Logos. "The Goddess Rhea," says Proclus, "is a Monad,

<sup>1</sup> *Vishnu Purāna*, Wilson, Vol I, p 23

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, pp 73-5

<sup>3</sup> Origen, *Contra Celsum*, VI, xxii

Duad, and Heptad," comprehending in herself all the *Titanidæ*, "who are seven."<sup>1</sup>

The Seven Creations are found in almost every *Purâna*. They are all preceded by what Wilson translates as the "indiscrete Principle," absolute Spirit, independent of any relation with objects of sense.

They are : (1) *Mahat-tattva*, the Universal Soul, Infinite Intellect, or Divine Mind ; (2) [*Tanmâtras*], *Bhûta* or *Bhûtasarga*, elemental creation, the first differentiation of Universal indiscrete Substance ; (3) *Indriya* or *Aindriyaka*, organic evolution "These three were the *Prākṛita* creations, the developments of indiscrete nature, preceded by the indiscrete principle " ; (4) *Mukhya*, "the fundamental creation (of perceptible things) was that of inanimate bodies " ;<sup>2</sup> (5) *Tairyagyonya* or *Tiryaksrotas*, was that of animals ; (6) *Ūrdhvasrotas*, or that of divinities (?) ,<sup>3</sup> (7) *Arvāksrotas*, was that of man.<sup>4</sup>

This is the order given in the exoteric texts. According to esoteric teaching there are seven Primary, and seven Secondary "Creations " ; the former being the Forces self-evolving from the one causeless FORCE ; the latter showing the manifested Universe emanating from the already differentiated divine Elements.

Esoterically, as well as exoterically, all the above enumerated Creations stand for the seven periods of Evolution, whether after an "Age" or a "Day" of *Brahmâ*. This is the teaching *par excellence* of Occult Philosophy, which, however, never uses the term "creation," nor even that of evolution, with regard to primary "Creation " ; but calls all such Forces the "aspects of the Causeless Force." In the *Bible*, the seven periods are dwarfed into the six days of creation and the seventh day of rest, and the Westerns adhere to the letter. In the Hindu Philosophy, when the active Creator has produced the world of Gods, the *Germ*s of all the undifferentiated Elements, and the rudiments of future senses (the world of noumena, in short) the Universe remains unaltered for a "Day of *Brahmâ*," a period of 4,320,000,000 years. This is the seventh passive Period, or the "Sabbath day" of Eastern Philosophy, following six periods of active evolution. In the *Shatapatha Brâhmana*, *Brahma* (neuter), the absolute Cause of all Causes, radiates the Gods. Having

<sup>1</sup> Plato, *Timæus*

<sup>2</sup> "And the fourth creation is here the primary, for things immovable are emphatically known as primary"—according to a commentary translated by Fitzedward Hall in his editing of Wilson's translation

<sup>3</sup> How can "divinities" have been created after the animals? The esoteric meaning of the expression "animals" is the *germs of all animal life*, including man. Man is called a *sacrificial animal*, that is, the only one among the animal creation who sacrifices to the Gods. Moreover, by "sacred animals" the twelve Signs of the Zodiac are often meant in the sacred texts, as already stated.

<sup>4</sup> *Vishnu Purâna*, Wilson, *ibid* , pp. 74-5.

radiated the Gods, through its inherent nature, the work is interrupted. In the First Book of *Manu* it is said :

At the expiration of each Night (Pralaya), Brahma, having been asleep, awakes, and, *through the sole energy of the motion*, causes to emanate from itself the Spirits [or mind], which in its essence is, and yet is not <sup>1</sup>

In the *Sepher Yetzireh*, the Kabalistic “Book of Creation,” the author has evidently re-echoed the words of Manu. In it the Divine Substance is represented as having alone existed from the eternity, boundless and absolute ; and as having emitted from itself the Spirit.

One is the Spirit of the living God, blessed be his Name, who liveth for ever ! Voice, Spirit, and Word, this is the Holy Spirit <sup>2</sup>

And this is the Kabalistic abstract Trinity, so unceremoniously anthropomorphized by the Fathers. From this triple ONE emanated the whole Kosmos. First from ONE emanated number TWO, or Air, the creative element ; and then number THREE, Water, proceeded from the Air, Ether or Fire completes the mystic Four, the Arbo-Al. In the Eastern doctrine, Fire is the first Element—Ether, synthesizing the whole, since it contains all of them.

In the *Vishnu Purâna*, the whole seven periods are given ; and the progressive Evolution of the “Spirit-Soul,” and of the seven Forms of Matter, or Principles, is shown. It is impossible to enumerate them in this work. The reader is asked to peruse one of the *Purânas*.

R. Yehudah began, it is written “Elohim said : Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters.” Come, see ! At the time that the Holy created the world, He [they] created 7 heavens Above. He created 7 earths Below, 7 seas, 7 days, 7 rivers, 7 weeks, 7 years, 7 times, and 7,000 years that the world has been the seventh of all (the millennium). . . . So here, are 7 earths Below, they are all inhabited except those which are above, and those which are below. And . . . between each earth, a heaven (firmament) is spread out between each other . . . And there are in them [these earths] creatures who look different one from the other, . . . but if you object and say that all the children of the world came out from Adam, it is not so . . . And the lower earths where do they come from ? They are from the chain of the earth, and from the Heaven Above <sup>3</sup>

Irenæus also is our witness—and a very unwilling one—that the Gnostics taught the same system, veiling very carefully the true esoteric meaning. This “veiling,” however, is identical with that of the *Vishnu Purâna* and others. Thus Irenæus writes of the Marcosians :

They maintain that first of all the four elements, fire, water, earth, and air, were produced after the image of the primary Tetrad above, and that then if we add their operations, namely, heat, cold, dryness, and humidity, an exact likeness of the Ogdoad is presented <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *The Ordinances of Manu*, I, v 74, p 10

<sup>2</sup> Op cit., I, ix

<sup>3</sup> Myer's *Qabbalah*, pp. 415-16.

<sup>4</sup> *Contra Hæc*, I, xvii, p 1 *The Writings of Irenæus*, I, p 73

Only this "likeness" and the *Ogdoad* itself is a blind, just as in the seven creations of the *Vishnu Purâna*, to which two more are added, of which the eighth, termed *Anugraha*, "possesses both the qualities of goodness and darkness," a Sâmkhyan more than a Purânic idea. For Irenæus says again, that .

They [the Gnostics] had a like eighth creation which was good and bad, divine and human. They affirm that man was formed on the *eighth day*. Sometimes they affirm that he was made on the *sixth day*, and at others on the eighth, unless, perchance, they mean that his earthly part was formed on the sixth day and his fleshly part [?] on the eighth day, these two being distinguished by them<sup>1</sup>

They were so "distinguished," but not as Irenæus gives it. The Gnostics had a superior, and an inferior *Hebdomad* in Heaven, and a third terrestrial *Hebdomad*, on the plane of matter. *Iaô*, the Mystery God and the Regent of the Moon, as given in Origen's chart, was the chief of these superior "Seven Heavens," hence identical with the chief of the Lunar Pitris, that name being given by them to the Lunar Dhyân Chohans. "They affirm that these seven heavens are intelligent, and speak of them as being angels," writes the same Irenæus; and adds that on this account they termed *Iaô Hebdomas*, while his mother was called *Ogdoas*, because, as he explains, she preserved "the number of the first begotten and primary *Ogdoad* of the *Pleroma*."<sup>3</sup>

This "first begotten *Ogdoad*" was (a) in Theogony the *Second Logos*, the Manifested, because it was born of the Seven-fold *First Logos*, hence it is the eighth on this manifested plane, and (b) in Astrolatry, it was the *Sun*, *Mârtanda*, the eighth Son of *Aditi*, whom she rejects while preserving her Seven Sons, the planets. For the Ancients have never regarded the Sun as a planet, but as a central and fixed Star. This, then, is the second *Hebdomad* born of the Seven-rayed One, *Agni*, the Sun and what not, only not the seven planets, which are *Sûrya's Brothers*, not his Sons. With the Gnostics, these Astral Gods were the Sons of *Ildabaoth*<sup>4</sup> (from *ilda*, "child," and *baoth* "egg"), the son of *Sophia Achamôth*, the daughter of *Sophia* (Wisdom), whose region is the *Pleroma*. *Ildabaoth* produces from himself these six stellar Spirits, *Jove* [*Iaô*] (*Jehovah*), *Sabaôth*, *Adonai* [*Adoneus*], *Eloi* [*Eloæus*], *Osraios* [*Oreus*], *Astaphaios* [*Astaphæus*],<sup>5</sup> and it is they who are the second, or inferior *Hebdomad*. As to the third, it is composed of the seven primeval men, the shadows of the Lunar Gods, projected by the first *Hebdomad*. In

<sup>1</sup> Ibid, I, xxx

<sup>2</sup> Superior to the Spirits, or "Heavens," of the Earth only

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, I, v 2

<sup>4</sup> See *Isis Unveiled*, II, p 183

<sup>5</sup> See also King's *Gnostics and their Remains*, p 97. Other sects regarded *Jehovah* as *Ildabaoth* himself. King identifies him with *Saturn*.



this the Gnostics did not, as seen, differ much from the Esoteric Doctrine, except that they veiled it. As to the charge made by Irenæus, who was evidently ignorant of the true tenets of the "Heretics," with regard to man being created on the *sixth* day, and man being created on the *eighth*, this relates to the mysteries of the *inner* man. It will become comprehensible to the reader only after he has read Volumes 3 and 4, and understood well the *Anthropogenesis* of the Esoteric Doctrine.

Ildabaoth is a copy of Manu, who boasts

O best of twice-born men<sup>1</sup> Know that I [Manu] am he, the creator of all this world, whom that male Virâj spontaneously produced<sup>1</sup>

He first creates the ten Lords of Being, the Prajâpatis, who, as verse 36 tells us, "produce seven other Manus. Ildabaoth boasts likewise: "I am Father and God, and there is no one above me," he exclaims. For which his Mother coolly puts him down by saying: "Do not lie, Ildabaoth, for the Father of all, the *first* man (*Anthropos*) is above thee, and so is *Anthropos*, the Son of *Anthropos*."<sup>2</sup> This is a good proof that there were three Logoi—besides the Seven born of the First—one of these being the *Solar Logos*. And, again, who was that "Anthropos" himself, so much higher than Ildabaoth? The Gnostic records alone can solve this riddle. In *Pistis-Sophia* the four-vowelled name IEOU is generally accompanied by the epithet of "the Primal, or First Man." This shows again that the Gnosis was but an echo of our Archaic Doctrine. The names answering to Parabrahman, to Brahmâ, and Manu, the first *thinking* Man, are composed of one-vowelled, three-vowelled and seven-vowelled sounds. Marcus, whose philosophy was certainly more Pythagorean than anything else, speaks of a revelation to him of the seven Heavens sounding each one vowel, as they pronounced the seven names of the seven (Angelic) Hierarchies.

When Spirit has permeated every minutest atom of the seven Principles of Kosmos, then the *Secondary* Creation, after the above-mentioned period of rest, begins.

"The Creators [Elohim] outline in the *second* 'Hour' the shape of man," says Rabbi Simeon in *The Nuchthemeron of the Hebrews*. "There are twelve hours in the day," says the *Mishna*, "and it is during these that creation is accomplished." The "twelve hours of the day" are again the dwarfed copy, the faint, yet faithful, echo of primitive Wisdom. They are like the 12,000 Divine Years of the Gods, a cyclic blind. Every "Day of Brahma" has 14 Manus, which the Hebrew Kabalists, following however in this the Chaldeans, have

<sup>1</sup> *Ordinances of Manu*, I, v 33

<sup>2</sup> *Irenæus*, op cit, I, xxx, 6

disguised into 12 Hours.”<sup>1</sup> The *Nuchthemeron* of Apollonius of Tyana is the same thing. “The Dodecahedron lies concealed in the perfect Cube,” say the Kabbalists. The mystic meaning of this is, that the twelve great transformations of Spirit into matter—the 12,000 Divine Years—take place during the four great Ages, or the first Mahâyuga. Beginning with the metaphysical and the supra-human, it ends in the physical and purely human natures of Kosmos and Man. Eastern Philosophy can give the number of mortal years that run along the line of spiritual and physical evolutions of the seen and the unseen, if Western Science fails to do so.

Primary Creation is called the *Creation of Light* (Spirit); and the *Secondary*, that of *Darkness* (Matter).<sup>2</sup> Both are found in *Genesis*.<sup>3</sup> The first is the emanation of self-born Gods (Elohim), the second of physical Nature.

This is why it is said in the *Zohar* :

Oh, companions, companions, man as emanation was both man and woman, as well on the side of the Father as on the side of the Mother. And this is the sense of the words. And Elohim spake “Let there be Light and it was Light!” And this is the “two-fold Man”!

Light, however, on our plane, is Darkness in the higher spheres

“Man and woman . . . on the side of the FATHER” (Spirit) refers to Primary Creation, and on the side of the Mother (Matter) to the Secondary. The two-fold Man is Adam Kadmon, the male and female abstract prototype and the *differentiated* Elohim. Man proceeds from the Dhyân Chohan, and is a “Fallen Angel,” a God in exile, as will be shown.

In India these creations were described as follows:<sup>4</sup>

(1) *The First Creation*: Mahat-tattva Creation, so-called because it was the primordial self-evolution of that which had to become *Mahat*, the “Divine Mind, conscious and intelligent”; esoterically, the “Spirit of the Universal Soul.”

Worthiest of ascetics, through its potency—i.e., through the potency of that cause—every created thing comes by its proper nature (p. 66, footnote)

And again :

Seeing that the potencies of all beings are understood *only* through the knowledge of That (Brahma), which is beyond reasoning, creation, and the like, such potencies are referable to Brahmâ.

<sup>1</sup> Elsewhere, however, the identity is revealed. See *supra* the quotation from Ibn Gebirol and his 7 heavens, 7 earths, etc.

<sup>2</sup> This must not be confused with *precosmic* “DARKNESS,” the Divine ALL.

<sup>3</sup> ch. 1, 2, and also at the beginning of ch. 11.

<sup>4</sup> The quotations that follow in treating of the seven Creations, except when otherwise stated, are all from *Vishnu Purâna*, Wilson, Vol. I, chs. 1-v.

THAT, then precedes the manifestation. "The first was Mahat," says *Linga Purâna* ; for the ONE (the THAT) is neither *first* nor *last*, but ALL Exoterically, however, this manifestation is the work of the "Supreme One"—a natural effect, rather, of an Eternal Cause ; or, as the Commentator says, it might have been understood to mean that Brahmâ was then *created* (?), being identified with Mahat, active intelligence, or the operating will of the Supreme. Esoteric Philosophy renders it the "operating LAW"

It is on the right comprehension of this tenet in the *Brâhmanas* and *Purânas* that hangs, we believe, the apple of discord between the three Vedântin Sects . the Advaita, Dvaita, and the Vishishthadvaita. The first argues rightly that Parabrahman, having no relation, as the absolute ALL, to the manifested World, the Infinite having no connection with the Finite, can neither *will* nor *create* ; that before Brahmâ, Mahat, Îshvara, or whatever name the Creative Power may be known by, Creative Gods and all, are simply an illusive aspect of Parabrahman in the conception of the conceivers, while the other sects identify the impersonal Cause with the Creator, or Îshvara

*Mahat*, or Mahâ-Buddhi, is, with the Vaishnavas, however, Divine Mind, *in active operation*, or, as Anaxagoras has it, "an ordering and disposing Mind, which was the cause of all things"—*Νοῦς ὁ διακοσμῶν τε καὶ πάντων αἰτίας*

Wilson saw at a glance the suggestive connection between *Mahat* and the Phœnician Môt, or *Mut*, who was female with the Egyptians, the Goddess Moot, the Mother, "which, like Mahat," he says, "was the first product of the mixture (?) of Spirit and Matter, and the first rudiment of Creation" "Ex connexione autem ejus Spiritus prodidit Môt . . . Hinc . . . seminium omnis creaturæ et omnium rerum creatio,"<sup>1</sup> says Brûcker,<sup>2</sup> giving it a still more materialistic and anthropomorphic colouring.

Nevertheless, the esoteric sense of the doctrine is seen, through every exoteric sentence, on the very face of the old Sanskrit texts that treat of primordial Creation.

The Supreme Soul, the *all-permeant* (Sarvaga) Substance of the World, having entered [*been drawn*] into Matter [Prakriti] and Spirit [Purusha], *agitated* the *mutable* and the *immutable principles*, the season of Creation [Manvantara] being arrived

[The *Nous* of the Greeks, which is (spiritual or divine) Mind, or *Mens*, Mahat, operates upon Matter in the same way ; it "enters into" and "agitates" it :

Spiritus intus alit, totamque infusa per artus,  
Mens agitat molem, et magno se corpore miscet<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [From this union, the Spirit produced Môt                      Hence the creation of the seed of all creatures and all things ]                      <sup>2</sup> [ , p. 240

<sup>1</sup> [Spirit nourishes it from within, and entering into every part, mind stirs up and interpenetrates the whole great body ]

In the Phœnician Cosmogony also, " Spirit mixing with its own principles gives rise to creation " ;<sup>1</sup> the Orphic Triad shows an identical doctrine , for there *Phanes*, or *Eros*, *Chaos*, containing crude *undifferentiated* Cosmic Matter, and *Kronos*, Time, are the three co-operating principles, emanating from the Concealed and Unknowable *Point*, which produce the work of " Creation." And they are the Hindu *Purusha* (*Phanes*), *Pradhâna* (*Chaos*) and *Kâla* (*Kronos*) or *time*. The good Professor Wilson does not like the idea, as no Christian clergyman, however, liberal, would. He remarks that . " the mixture [of the Supreme Spirit or Soul with its own principles] is not mechanical , it is an influence or effect exerted upon intermediate agents which produce effects." The sentence in *Vishnu Purâna*, " as fragrance affects the mind from its proximity merely, and not from any immediate operation upon mind itself, so the Supreme influenced the elements of creation," the reverend and erudite Sanskritist correctly explains by . " as perfumes do not delight the mind by actual contact, but by the impression they make upon the sense of smelling, which communicates it to the mind " . adding, " the entrance of the Supreme . . . into Spirit, as well as Matter, is less intelligible than the view elsewhere taken of it, as the infusion of Spirit, identified with the Supreme, into Prakriti or Matter alone." He prefers the verse in *Padma Purâna* : " He who is called the male (spirit) of Prakriti . . . that same divine Vishnu entered into Prakriti." This " view " is certainly more akin to the plastic character of certain verses in the *Bible* concerning the Patriarchs, such as Lot and even Adam,<sup>2</sup> and others of a still more anthropomorphic nature. But it is just that which led Humanity to *Phallicism* , the Christian religion being honeycombed with it, from the first chapter of *Genesis* down to the *Revelation*.]

The Esoteric Doctrine teaches that the Dhyân Chohans are the collective aggregate of divine Intelligence or primordial *Mind*, and that the first Manus, the seven " mind-born " Spiritual Intelligences, are identical with the former. Hence the Kwan-Shi-Yin, the " *Golden Dragon in whom are the Seven*," of STANZA 3, is the Primordial Logos, or *Brahmâ*, the first manifested Creative Power , and the Dhyânic Energies are the Manus, or *Manu-Svâyambhuva* collectively. The direct connection, moreover, between the Manus and Mahat is easy to see. *Manu* is from the root *Man*, to think , and thinking proceeds from the mind. It is, in Cosmogony, the pre-nebular Period.

(2) *The Second Creation*, *Bhûta*, was of the rudimental Principles (*Tanmâtras*) , thence termed the Elemental Creation (*Bhûtasarga*). It is the period of the first breath of the differentiation of the pre-cosmic Elements, or

<sup>1</sup> Brucker, *ibid*.

<sup>2</sup> Compare *Genesis*, xix, 34-8 and iv, 1.

Matter. *Bhûtâdi* means the "origin of the Elements," and precedes *Bhûta-sarga*, the "creation," or differentiation, of those Elements in primordial *Âkâsha* (Chaos or Vacuity).<sup>1</sup> In the *Vishnu Purâna*, it is said to proceed along, and belong to, the triple aspect of *Ahamkâra*, translated Egotism, but meaning rather that untranslatable term "I-AM-NESS," that which first issues from Mahat, or Divine Mind; the first shadowy outline of Self-hood, for "pure" *Ahamkâra* becomes "passionate" and finally "rudimental" or initial;<sup>2</sup> it is "the origin of conscious as of all unconscious being," though the Esoteric school rejects the idea of anything being "unconscious," save on our plane of illusion and ignorance. At this stage of the Second Creation, the Second Hierarchy of the Manus appear, the *Dhyân Chohans* or *Devas*, who are the origin of Form (*Rûpa*), the *Chitrashikhandinas* (Bright-crested)," or *Rikshas*; those *Rishis* who have become the informing Souls of the seven stars (of the Great Bear).<sup>3</sup> In astronomical and cosmogonical language, this Creation relates to the *Fire-Mist* Period, the first stage of Cosmic Life, after its Chaotic state,<sup>4</sup> when Atoms issue from *Laya*.

(3) *The Third Creation*: the Third or *Indriya* Creation was the modified form of *Ahamkâra*, the conception of "I" (from *Aham*, "I"), termed the organic Creation, or creation of the senses, *Aindriyaka*. "These three were the *Prākṛita* creations, the [discrete] developments of indiscrete nature preceded by the indiscrete principle."<sup>5</sup> "Preceded by," ought to be replaced here with "beginning with" *Buddhi*; for the latter is neither a discrete nor an indiscrete quantity, but partakes of the nature of both, in man as in *Kosmos*. A unit or human *MONAD* on the plane of illusion, when once freed from the three forms of *Ahamkâra* and liberated from its terrestrial *Manas*, *Buddhi* indeed becomes a continued quantity, both in duration and extension, for it is

<sup>1</sup> *Vishnu* is both *Bhûtesha*, "Lord of the Elements," and of all things, and *Vishvarûpa*, "Universal Substance" or Soul

<sup>2</sup> *Vishnu Purâna*, Wilson, Vol. I, p. 33

<sup>3</sup> Compare, for their post-types, the Treatise written by Trithemius, Agrippa's master, in the sixteenth century, "Concerning the seven secondaries, or Spiritual Intelligences, who, after God, actuate the Universe," which, in addition to secret cycles and several prophecies, discloses certain facts and beliefs about the *Genii*, or the *Elohim*, which preside over and guide the septenary stages of the World's Course

<sup>4</sup> From the first, the Orientalists have found themselves beset with great difficulties in regard to any possible order in the *Purânic Creations*. *Brahman* is very often confused by Wilson with *Brahmâ*, for which he is criticized by his successors. The *Original Sanskrit Texts* are preferred by Mr. Fitzedward Hall for the translation of the *Vishnu Purâna*, to the text used by Wilson. "Had Professor Wilson enjoyed the advantages which are now at the command of the student of Indian philosophy, unquestionably he would have expressed himself differently," says the editor of his work. This reminds one of the answer given by one of Thomas Taylor's admirers to those scholars who criticized his translations of Plato: "Taylor might have known less Greek than his critics, but he knew more Plato." Our present Orientalists disfigure the mystic sense of the Sanskrit texts far more than Wilson ever did, though the latter is undeniably guilty of very gross errors

<sup>5</sup> Op. cit., p. 74

eternal and immortal. Earlier it is stated, that the *Third* Creation “abounding with the quality of goodness,” is termed *Ūrdhvasrotas*; and a page or two further the *Ūrdhvasrotas* Creation is referred to as “the sixth creation . . . or that of the divinities.”<sup>1</sup> This shows plainly that earlier as well as later *Manvantaras* have been purposely confused, to prevent the profane from perceiving the truth. This is called “incongruity” and “contradictions” by the Orientalists. [“The three Creations beginning with Intelligence are elemental, but the six creations which proceed from the series of which Intellect is the first, are the work of *Brahmā*.”<sup>2</sup> Here “creations” mean everywhere stages of Evolution. *Mahat*, “Intellect” or *mind* (which corresponds with *Manas*, the former being on the cosmic, and the latter on the human plane), stands here, too, lower than *Buddhi* or supra-divine Intelligence. Therefore, when we read in *Linga Purāna* that “the first Creation was that of *Mahat*, Intellect being the first in manifestation,” we must refer that (specified) creation to the first evolution of our System or even our Earth, none of the preceding ones being discussed in the *Purānas*, but only occasionally hinted at.]

This Creation of the first Immortals, or *Devasarga*, is the last of the series, and has a universal meaning; it refers, namely, to Evolution in general, and not specifically to our *Manvantara*, which begins with the same over and over again, thus showing that it refers to several distinct *Kalpas*. For it is said “at the close of the past [Padma] *Kalpa* the divine *Brahmā* awoke from his night of sleep and beheld the Universe void” Then *Brahmā* is shown going once more over the “Seven Creations,” in the secondary stage of evolution, repeating the first three on the objective plane.

(4) *The Fourth Creation*: the *Mukhya* or Primary, as it begins the series of four. Neither the term “inanimate” bodies nor “immovable things,” as translated by Wilson, gives a correct idea of the Sanskrit words used. Esoteric Philosophy is not alone in rejecting the idea of any atom being *inorganic*, for it is found also in orthodox Hinduism. Moreover, Wilson himself says: “All the Hindu systems consider vegetable bodies as endowed with life.”<sup>3</sup> *Charāchara*,<sup>4</sup> or the synonymous *sthāvara* and *jangama* [respectively], is, therefore, inaccurately rendered by “animate and inanimate,” “sentient beings” and “unconscious,” or “conscious and unconscious beings,” etc. “Locomotive and fixed” would be better, “since trees are considered to possess souls.” The *Mukhya* is the “creation,” or rather organic evolution, of the vegetable kingdom. In this *Secondary Period*, the three degrees of the elemental or

<sup>1</sup> P. 75

<sup>2</sup> *Vāyu Purāna* [See *Vishnu Purāna*, Wilson, Vol. 1, p. 77].

<sup>3</sup> *Collected Works*, Vol. III, p. 381.

<sup>4</sup> *Charāchara*, is compounded of *chara*, moving, and *achara*, unmoving

rudimental kingdoms are evolved in this World, corresponding, *inversely* in order, to the three Prākritic Creations, during the Primary Period of Brahmā's activity. As in that Period, in the words of *Vishnu Purāna*, "the first creation was that of Mahat or Intellect. . . . The second was that of the rudimental principles (Tanmātras). . . . The third was . . . the creation of the senses (Aindriyaka) ",<sup>1</sup> so in this one, the order of the Elemental Forces stands thus : (1) the *nascent* centres of Force, intellectual and physical ; (2) the rudimentary Principles, *nerve force*, so to say, and (3) nascent *Apperception*, which is the *Mahat* of the lower kingdoms, and is especially developed in the third order of Elementals ; these are succeeded by the objective kingdom of minerals, in which this "apperception" is entirely latent, to re-develop only in the plants. The *Mukhya* Creation, then, is the middle point between the three lower and the three higher kingdoms, which represent the seven esoteric kingdoms of Kosmos, and of Earth.

(5) *The Fifth Creation* : the *Tiryaksrotas* (or *Tairyagyonya*) Creation,<sup>2</sup> that of the "(sacred) animals," corresponding on Earth only to the dumb animal creation. That which is meant by "animals," in the *Primary* Creation, is the germ of awakening consciousness, or of *apperception*, that which is faintly traceable in some sensitive plants on Earth and more distinctly in the protistic Monera.<sup>3</sup> On our Globe, during the First Round, animal "creation" precedes that of man, while the mammalian animals evolve from man in our Fourth Round, on the physical plane. In the First Round, the animal atoms are drawn into a cohesion of human physical form ; while in the Fourth, the reverse occurs according to magnetic conditions developed during life. And this is "metempsychosis."<sup>4</sup> This fifth Stage of Evolution, called exoterically "Creation," may be viewed in both the *Primary* and *Secondary* Periods, one as the Spiritual and Cosmic, the other as the material and terrestrial. It is *archebiosis*, or life-origination ; "origination," so far, of course, as the *manifestation* of life on all the seven planes is concerned. It is at this period of Evolution that the *absolutely eternal* universal motion, or vibration, that which is called in Esoteric language the GREAT BREATH, differentiates into the primordial, first manifested ATOM. More and more, as chemical and physical

<sup>1</sup> Vol. 1, p. 74

<sup>2</sup> Professor Wilson translates as though animals were higher in the scale of "creation" than divinities, or angels, although the truth about the Devas is very plainly stated further on. This "creation," says the text, is both *Primary* (Prākrita) and *Secondary* (Vaikrita). It is the *Secondary*, as regards the origin of the Gods from Brahmā, the *personal* anthropomorphic creator of our material universe, it is the *Primary* as affecting Rudra, who is the immediate production of the First Principle. The term Rudra is not only a title of Shiva, but embraces agents of creation, angels and men, as will be shown further on.

<sup>3</sup> Neither plant nor animal, but an existence between the two

<sup>4</sup> *Five Years of Theosophy*, p. 276, "Mineral Monad"

sciences progress, does this Occult axiom find its corroboration in the world of knowledge ; the scientific hypothesis, that even the simplest elements of matter are identical in their nature, and differ from each other only in consequence of the various distributions of atoms in the molecule or speck of substance, or of the modes of its *atomic vibration*, gains more ground every day.

Thus, as the differentiation of the primordial germ of life has to precede the evolution of the Dhyân Chohan of the *Third Group* or Hierarchy of Being in Primary Creation, before those Gods can become (*rûpa*) embodied in their first ethereal form, so animal creation has for the same reason to precede "divine man" on Earth. And this is why we find in the *Purânas*, "the fifth, the Tairyagyonya Creation, was that of animals."

(6) *The Sixth Creation* : the *Ūrdhvasrotas* Creation, or that of Divinities. But these Divinities are simply the Prototypes of the First Race, the Fathers of their "mind-born" progeny with the "soft bones." It is these who became the Evolvers of the "Sweat-born"—an expression explained in Volumes 3 and 4.

"Created beings," explains the *Vishnu Purâna*, "although they 'are destroyed [in their individual forms] at the periods of dissolution, yet being affected by the good or evil acts of former existences, are never exempted from their consequences. And when Brahmâ produces the world anew, they are the progeny of his will"

"Collecting his mind into itself [Yoga-willing], Brahmâ creates the four Orders of Beings, termed Gods, Demons, PROGENITORS, and MEN"; Progenitors here meaning the Prototypes and Evolvers of the first Root-Race of men. The Progenitors are the Pitris, and are of Seven Classes. They are said, in exoteric mythology, to be born of *Brahmâ's side*," like Eve from the rib of Adam]

Finally, the Sixth Creation is followed, and "Creation" in general closed by .

(7) *The Seventh Creation* : the evolution of the *Arvâksrotas* Beings, "which was . . . that of man."

The "Eighth Creation" mentioned is no *Creation* at all it is a *blind*, for it refers to a purely mental process, the cognition of the "Ninth Creation," which, in its turn, is an effect, manifesting in the *Secondary*, of that which was a "Creation" in the *Primary* (Prâkrita) Creation.<sup>1</sup> The *Eighth*, then, called *Anugraha*, the *Pratyayasarga* or Intellectual Creation of the

<sup>1</sup> "These notions," remarks Professor Wilson, "the birth of Rudra and the saints, seem to have been borrowed from the Shaivas, and to have been awkwardly engrafted upon the Vaishnava system." The esoteric meaning ought to have been consulted before venturing such a hypothesis



Sāṅkhyas,<sup>1</sup> is "the creation of which we have a notion [in its esoteric aspect], or to which we give intellectual assent (Anugraha), in contradistinction to organic creation." It is the correct perception of our relations to the whole range of "Gods," and especially of those we bear to the Kumâras, the so-called "Ninth Creation," which is in reality an aspect, or reflection, of the Sixth in our Manvantara (the Vaivasvata). "There is a ninth, the Kumâra Creation, which is both primary and secondary," says the *Vishnu Purâna*, the oldest of such texts.<sup>2</sup> As an Esoteric text explains.

*The Kumâras, are the Dhyânîs, derived immediately from the supreme Principle, who reappear in the Vaivasvata Manu period, for the progress of mankind.*<sup>3</sup>

The translator of the *Vishnu Purâna* corroborates it, by remarking that "these sages . . . live as long as Brahmâ; and they are only created by him in the first Kalpa, although their generation is very commonly, but inconsistently, introduced in the [Secondary] Varâha, or Padma Kalpa." Thus, the Kumâras are, exoterically, "the creation of Rudra or Nilalohita, a form of Shiva, by Brahmâ . . . and of certain other mind-born sons of Brahmâ." But, in the Esoteric teaching, they are the Progenitors of the true spiritual SELF in the physical man, the higher Prajâpatis, while the Pitris, or lower Prajâpatis, are no more than the fathers of the model, or type of his physical form, made in "their image." Four (and occasionally five) are mentioned freely in the exoteric texts, three of the Kumâras being secret.

[ "The four Kumâras [are] the mind-born Sons of Brahmâ. Some specify seven." ]<sup>4</sup> All these seven Vaidhâtṛa, the patronymic of the Kumâras, the "Maker's Sons," are mentioned and described in Īshvara Krishna's *Sāṅkhya Kārikâ* with the Commentary of Gaudapādâchârya (Shankarâchârya's *Paraguru*) attached to it. It discusses the nature of the Kumâras, though it refrains from mentioning by name all the seven Kumâras, but calls them instead the "seven sons of Brahmâ," which they are, as they are created by Brahmâ in Rudra. The list of names it gives us is: Sanaka, Sanandana, Sanâtana, Kapila, Ribhu, and Panchashikha.<sup>5</sup> But these again are all aliases.]

<sup>1</sup> See *Sāṅkhya Kārikâ*, v 46

<sup>2</sup> Parâshara, the Vedic Rishi, who received the *Vishnu Purâna* from Pulastya and taught it to Maitreya, is placed by the Orientalists at various epochs. As correctly observed, in the *Hindu Classical Dictionary* "Speculations as to his era differ widely from 675 B C. to 1391 B C., and cannot be trusted." Quite so, but they are no more untrustworthy than any other date, as assigned by the Sanskritists, so famous in the department of arbitrary fancy.

<sup>3</sup> They may indeed mark a "special" or extra "creation," since it is they who, by incarnating themselves within the senseless human shells of the two first Root-Races, and a great portion of the Third Root-Race, create, so to speak, a new race, that of thinking, self-conscious and divine men.

<sup>4</sup> *Hindu Classical Dictionary*

<sup>5</sup> [The actual list is Sanaka, Sanandana, Sanâtana, Āsuri, Kapila, Borhu, and Panchashikha. See Gaudapâda's Commentary on v 1.]

The exoteric four are Sanatkumâra, Sanandana, Sanaka, and Sanâtana ; and the esoteric three Sana, Kapila, and Sanatsujâta. Special attention is once more drawn to this class of Dhyân Chohans, for herein lies the mystery of generation and heredity hinted at in the Commentary on STANZA 7, in treating of the Four Orders of Angelic Beings. Volumes 3 and 4 explain their position in the Divine Hierarchy. Meanwhile, let us see what the exoteric texts say about them.

They do not say much , nothing to him who fails to read between the lines. " We must have recourse, here, to other *Purânas* for the elucidation of this term," remarks Wilson, who does not suspect for one moment that he is in the presence of the " Angels of Darkness," the mythical " great enemy " of his Church. Therefore, he contrives to elucidate no more than that " these [divinities] declining to create progeny, [and thus rebelling against Brahmâ], remained, as the name of the first [Sanatkumâra] implies, ever boys, Kumâras , that is, ever pure and innocent, whence their creation is called the Kaumâra." The *Purânas*, however, may afford a little more light. " Being ever as he was born, he is here called a youth ; and hence his name is well known as Sanatkumâra " <sup>1</sup> In the *Shaiva Purânas*, the Kumâras are always described as Yogis. The *Kurma Purâna*, after enumerating them, says : " These five, O Brâhmans, were Yogis, who acquired entire exemption from passion." They are five, because two of the Kumâras fell.

[So untrustworthy are some translations of the Orientalists, that in the French translation of the *Harivamsha* it is said : " The seven Prajâpatîs, Rudra, Skanda (his son) and Sanatkumâra, proceeded to create beings." Whereas, as Wilson shows, the original is : " These seven . . . created progeny ; and so did Rudra, but Skanda and Sanatkumâra, *restraining their power, abstained* (from creation)." The " four orders of beings " are referred to sometimes as Ambhâmsî, which Wilson renders as " literally Waters " and believes it " a mystic term." It is one, no doubt , but he evidently failed to catch the *real* Esoteric meaning. " Waters " and " Water " stand as the symbol for Âkâsha, the " Primordial Ocean of Space," on which Nârâyana, the self-born Spirit, moves, reclining on that *which is its progeny*.<sup>2</sup> " Water is the body of Nara ; thus we have heard the name of Water explained. Since Brahmâ rests on the Water, therefore he is termed Nârâyana."<sup>3</sup> " Pure, Purusha created the Waters pure." At the same time Water is the *third* Principle in material Kosmos, and the third in the realm of the Spiritual : *Spirit* of Fire, Flame, Âkâsha, Ether, Water, Air, Earth, are the cosmic, sidereal, psychic, spiritual

<sup>1</sup> *Linga Purâna*, Prior Section, lxx, 174

<sup>2</sup> See *Manu*, I, 10.

<sup>3</sup> See *Linga, Vâyu and Mârkandeya Purânas* See *Vishnu Purâna*, Wilson, Vol. 1, pp. 56-7.

and mystic principles, *pre-eminently occult*, on every plane of being. "Gods, Demons, Pitris and Men," are the four orders of beings to whom the term Ambhâmsi is applied, in the Vedas it is a synonym of Gods, because they are all the product of WATERS (mystically), of the Âkâshic Ocean, and of the *Third* principle in Nature. Pitris and Men on Earth are the transformations or rebirths of God and Demons (Spirits) on a higher plane. Water is, in another sense, the feminine principle. Venus Aphrodite is the personified Sea, and the Mother of the God of Love, the Generatrix of all the Gods, as much as the Christian Virgin Mary is Mare, the Sea, the Mother of the Western God of Love, Mercy and Charity. If the student of Esoteric Philosophy thinks deeply over the subject, he is sure to find out all the suggestiveness of the term Ambhâmsi, in its manifold relations to the Virgin in Heaven, to the Celestial Virgin of the Alchemists, and even to the "Waters of Grace" of the modern Baptist.]

Of all the seven great divisions of Dhyân Chohans, or Devas, there is none with which humanity is more concerned than with the Kumâras. Imprudent are the Christian Theologians who have degraded them into *fallen* Angels, and now call them Satan and Demons, as among these heavenly denizens who *refuse to create*, the Archangel Michael, the greatest patron Saint of the Western and Eastern Churches, under his double name of St. Michael, and his supposed copy on earth St. George conquering the DRAGON, has to be given one of the most prominent places.<sup>1</sup>

The Kumâras, the "Mind-born Sons" of *Brahmâ-Rudra*, or Shiva, mystically the howling and terrific *destroyer of human passions and physical senses*, which are ever in the way of the development of the higher spiritual perceptions and the growth of the *inner* eternal man, are the progeny of Shiva, the Mahâyogî, the great patron of all the Yogis and Mystics of India.

[Shiva-Rudra is the Destroyer, as Vishnu is the Preserver, and both are the Regenerators of spiritual as well as of physical Nature. To live as a plant, the seed must die. To live as a conscious entity in the Eternity, the passions and senses of man must DIE before his body does. "To live is to die and to die is to live," has been too little understood in the West. Shiva, the *destroyer*, is the *creator* and the Saviour of Spiritual Man, as he is the good gardener of Nature. He weeds out the plants, human and cosmic, and kills the passions of the physical, to call to life the perceptions of the spiritual, man.]

The Kumâras, themselves, being the "Virgin-ascetics," refuse to create the *material* being, MAN. Well may they be suspected of a direct connection with the Christian Archangel Michael, the "Virgin Combatant" of the Dragon

<sup>1</sup> See Vol 3, Part 1, STANZA 9, Commentaries

*Apophis*, whose victim is every Soul united too loosely to its immortal Spirit, the Angel who, as shown by the Gnostics, *refused to create* just as the Kumâras did. Does not that patron-Angel of the Jews *preside* over Saturn (Shiva or Rudra), and the Sabbath, the day of Saturn? Is he not shown of the same essence with his Father (Saturn), and called the Son of Time, *Kronos*, or *Kâla* (time), a form of *Brahmâ* (*Vishnu* and *Shiva*)? And is not "Old Time" of the Greeks, with its scythe and sand-glass, identical with the "Ancient of Days" of the Kabalists; the latter "Ancient" being one with the Hindu Ancient of Days, *Brahmâ* (in his *triune* form), whose name is also *Sanat*, the Ancient? Every Kumâra bears the prefix of *Sanat* and *Sana*.<sup>1</sup> And *Shanaishchara* is Saturn, the planet *Shani*, the King Saturn, whose Secretary in Egypt was *Thot-Hermes* the first. They are thus identified both with the planet and the God (*Shiva*), who are, in their turn, shown to be the prototypes of Saturn, who is the same as *Bel*, *Baal*, *Shiva*, and *Jehovah Sabbaoth*, the Angel of the Face of whom is *Mikael*—מִיכָאֵל,<sup>2</sup> "who [is] as God." He is the patron, and guardian Angel of the Jews, as *Daniel* tells us;<sup>3</sup> and, before the Kumâras were degraded, by those who were ignorant of their very name, into Demons and Fallen Angels, the Greek *Ophites*, the occultly inclined predecessors and precursors of the Roman Catholic Church after its secession and separation from the primitive Greek Church, had identified *Michael* with their *Ophiomorphos*, the rebellious and opposing spirit. This means nothing more than the reverse aspect, symbolically, of *Ophis*, the Divine Wisdom or *Christos*. In the *Talmud*, *Mikael* (*Michael*) is "Prince of Water" and the chief of the Seven Spirits, for the same reason that one of his many prototypes, *Sanatsujâta*, the chief of the Kumâras, is called *Ambhâmsi*, "Waters," according to the commentary on *Vishnu Purâna*. Why? Because the "Waters" is another name of the "Great Deep," the primordial Waters of Space, or *Chaos*, and also means *Mother*, *Ambâ*, meaning *Aditi* and *Âkâsha*, the Celestial Virgin-Mother of the visible Universe. Furthermore, the "Waters of the Flood" are also called the "GREAT DRAGON," or *Ophis*, *Ophiomorphos*.

The *Rudras* will be noticed in their septenary character of "Fire-Spirits" in the "Symbolism" attached to the STANZAS in Volume 3. There we shall also consider the Cross (3+4) under its primeval and later forms, and shall use for purposes of comparison the Pythagorean numbers side by side with Hebrew metrology. The immense importance of the number seven will thus

<sup>1</sup> [*Sanat*, an epithet of Brahman]

<sup>2</sup> The angel of whose face is MIKAEL, is the rendering in the 1888 edition

<sup>3</sup> See ch. XII, 1.

become evident, as the root number of Nature. We shall examine it from the standpoint of the *Vedas* and the Chaldean Scriptures: as it existed in Egypt thousands of years B C and as treated in the Gnostic records; we shall show how its importance as a basic number has gained recognition in Physical Science; and we shall endeavour to prove that the importance attached to the number seven throughout all antiquity was due to no fanciful imaginings of uneducated priests, but to a profound knowledge of Natural Law.

## SECTION 14

### THE FOUR ELEMENTS

METAPHYSICALLY and esoterically, there is but ONE ELEMENT in Nature, and at the root of it is the Deity ; and the so-called seven Elements, of which five have already manifested and asserted their existence, are the garment, the veil, of that Deity, direct from the essence whereof comes MAN, whether considered physically, psychically, mentally or spiritually. Four Elements only are generally spoken of in later antiquity, while five only are admitted in philosophy. For the body of Ether is not fully manifested yet, and its noumenon is still the "Omnipotent Father Æther," the synthesis of the rest. But what are these "ELEMENTS," whose compound bodies have now been discovered by Chemistry and Physics to contain numberless sub-elements, even the sixty or seventy of which no longer embrace the whole number suspected ?<sup>1</sup> Let us follow their evolution from the *historical* beginnings, at any rate.

The Four Elements were fully characterized by Plato when he said that they were *that* "which composes and decomposes the compound bodies." Hence Cosmolatry was never, even in its worst aspect, the fetishism which adores or worships the passive external form and matter of any object, but looked ever to the *noumenon* therein. Fire, Air, Water, Earth, were but the visible garb, the symbols of the informing, invisible Souls or Spirits, the Cosmic Gods, to whom worship was offered by the ignorant, and simple, but respectful, recognition by the wiser. In their turn, the *phenomenal* subdivisions of the noumenal Elements were informed by the Elementals, so-called, the "Nature Spirits" of lower grades.

In the *Theogony* of Mōchus, we find Ether first, and then the Air ; the two principles from which Ulom, the *intelligible* (νοητὸς) God, the visible Universe of Matter, is born.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Addenda*, Sections 11 and 12

<sup>2</sup> *Movers, Phoinizer*, p. 282

In the Orphic hymns, the Eros-Phanes evolves from the Spiritual Egg, which the Æthereal Winds impregnate, Wind being the "Spirit of God," which is said to move in Æther, "brooding over the Chaos," the Divine "Idea." In the Hindu *Katha Upanishad*, Purusha, the Divine Spirit, already stands before the original matter, and from their union springs the great Soul of the World, "Mahâ-Âtmâ, Brahman, the Spirit of Life";<sup>1</sup> these latter appellations being again identical with the Universal Soul, or *Anima Mundi*; the Astral Light of the Theurgists and Kabalists being its last and lowest division.

The Elements (*στοιχεῖα*) of Plato and Aristotle were thus the *incorporeal principles* attached to the four great divisions of our Cosmic World, and it is with justice that Creuzer defines these primitive beliefs as "a species of *magism*, a *psychic paganism*, and a *deification of potencies*; a *spiritualization* which placed the believers in a close community with these potencies."<sup>2</sup> So close, indeed, that the Hierarchies of these Potencies, or Forces, have been classified on a graduated scale of seven from the ponderable to the imponderable. They are Septenary, not as an artificial aid to facilitate their comprehension, but in their real Cosmic gradation, from their chemical, or physical, to their purely spiritual composition. Gods with the ignorant masses; Gods independent and supreme, Demons with the fanatics, who, intellectual as they often may be, are unable to understand the Spirit of the philosophical sentence, *in pluribus unum* [one in many, unity in diversity]. With the Hermetic philosopher they are FORCES relatively "blind" or "intelligent," according to which of the principles in them he deals with. It required long millenniums before they found themselves finally, in our cultured age, degraded into simple chemical elements.

At any rate, good Christians, and especially the Biblical Protestants, ought to show more reverence for the Four Elements, if they would maintain any for Moses. For the *Bible* manifests the consideration and mystic significance in which they were held by the Hebrew Lawgiver, on every page of the *Pentateuch*. The tent which contained the Holy of Holies was a Cosmic Symbol, sacred, in one of its meanings, to the Elements, the four cardinal points, and ETHER. Josephus shows it built in white, the colour of Ether. And this explains also why, in the Egyptian and the Hebrew temples, according to Clemens Alexandrinus,<sup>3</sup> a gigantic curtain, supported by five pillars, separated the *sanctum sanctorum*—now represented by the altar in Christian churches—wherein the priests alone were permitted to enter, from the part accessible to the profane. By its four colours this curtain symbolized the four

<sup>1</sup> Weber, *Akad. Vorles*, pp 213-4, etc

<sup>2</sup> Book IX, p. 850

<sup>3</sup> *Stromata*, I, v 6.

principal Elements, and [with the five pillars] signified the knowledge of the divine that the *five* senses can enable man to acquire with the help of the *four* Elements.

In *Cory's Ancient Fragments*, one of the "Chaldean Oracles" expresses ideas about the elements and Ether in language singularly like that of *The Unseen Universe*, written by two eminent Scientists of our day.

It states that from Ether have come all things, and to it all will return, that the images of all things are indelibly impressed upon it, and that it is the store-house of the germs, or of the remains of all visible forms, and even ideas. It appears as if this case strangely corroborates our assertion that whatever discoveries may be made in our days will be found to have been anticipated by many thousand years by our "simple-minded ancestors" <sup>1</sup>

Whence came the Four Elements and the *Malachim* of the Hebrews? They have been made to merge, by a theological sleight of hand on the part of the Rabbins and the later Fathers of the Church, into Jehovah, but their origin is identical with that of the Cosmic Gods of all other nations. Their symbols, whether born on the shores of the Oxus, on the burning sands of Upper Egypt, or in the wild forests, weird and glacial, which cover the slopes and peaks of the sacred snowy mountains of Thessaly, or again, in the pampas of America—their symbols, we repeat, when traced to their source, are ever one and the same. Whether Egyptian or Pelasgian, Âryan or Semitic, the Genius Loci, the Local God, embraced in its unity all Nature, but not especially the four elements any more than one of their creations, such as trees, rivers, mounts or stars. The Genius Loci, a very late afterthought of the last sub-races of the Fifth Root-Race, when the primitive and grandiose meaning had become nearly lost, was ever the representative, in his accumulated titles, of all his colleagues. It was the God of *Fire*, symbolized by thunder, as Jove or Agni, the God of *Water*, symbolized by the fluvial bull, or some sacred river or fountain, as Varuna, Neptune, etc., the God of *Air*, manifesting in the hurricane and tempest, as Vâyû and Indra, and the God or Spirit of the *Earth*, who appeared in earthquakes, like Pluto, Yama, and so many others.

These were the Cosmic Gods, ever synthesizing all in one, as found in every cosmogony or mythology. Thus, the Greeks had their Dodonean Jupiter, who included in himself the four Elements and the four cardinal points, and who was recognized, therefore, in old Rome under the pantheistic title of *Jupiter Mundus*, and who now, in modern Rome, has become the *Deus Mundus*, the one Mundane God, who is made to swallow all others, in the latest theology, by the arbitrary decision of his special ministers.

<sup>1</sup> See *Isis Unveiled*, I, p. 395



As Gods of Fire, Air, and Water, they were *Celestial* Gods, as Gods of the *lower region*, they were *infernal* Deities; the latter adjective applying simply to the *Earth*. They were "Spirits of the Earth" under their respective names of Yama, Pluto, Osiris, the "Lord of the Lower Kingdom," etc., and their tellurian character sufficiently proves it. The Ancients knew of no worse abode after death than the *Kâma Loka*, the *Limbus* on this Earth.<sup>1</sup> If it is argued that the Dodonean Jupiter was identified with *Dis*, or the Roman Pluto with the Dionysus Chthonios, the Subterranean, and with Aidoneus, the King of the Subterranean World, wherein, according to Creuzer,<sup>2</sup> oracles were rendered, then it will become the pleasure of the Occultists to prove that both Aidoneus and Dionysus are the bases of Adonai, or Iurbo-Adonai, as Jehovah is called in the *Codex Nazaræus*. "Thou shalt not worship the Sun, who is named Adonai, whose name is also Kadush and El-El,"<sup>3</sup> and also "Lord Bacchus." Baal-Adonis of the *Sôds*, or Mysteries, of the pre-Babylonian Jews became the Adonai by the Massorah, the later vowelled Jehovah. Hence the Roman Catholics are right. All these Jupiters are of the same family; but Jehovah has to be included therein to make it complete. The Jupiter *Aerius* or *Pan*, the Jupiter-Ammon, and the Jupiter-Bel-Moloch, are all correlations and one with Iurbo-Adonai, because they are all one Cosmic Nature. It is that Nature and Power which creates the specific terrestrial symbol, and the physical and material fabric of the latter, which proves the Energy manifesting through it as *extrinsic*.

For primitive religion was something better than simple pre-occupation about physical phenomena, as remarked by Schelling, and principles, more elevated than we modern Sadducees know of, "were hidden under the transparent veil of such merely natural divinities as thunder, the winds, and rain." The Ancients knew and could distinguish the *corporeal* from the *spiritual* Elements in the Forces of Nature.

The four-fold Jupiter, as the four-faced Brahmâ, the aerial, the fulgurant, the terrestrial, and the marine God, the lord and master of the four Elements, may stand as a representative for the great Cosmic Gods of every nation. Although deputing power over the fire to Hephæstus-Vulcan, over the sea to Poseidon-Neptune, and over the Earth to Pluto-Aidoneus, the AERIAL Jove was still all these; for ÆTHER, from the first, had pre-eminence over, and was the synthesis of, all the Elements.

<sup>1</sup> The Gehenna of the Bible was a valley near Jerusalem, where the monotheistic Jews immolated their children to Moloch, if the word of the prophet Jeremiah is to be believed. The Scandinavian Abode of Hel or Hela was a frigid region—Kâma Loka again—and the Egyptian Amenti a place of purification (See *Isis Unveiled*, II, 11)

<sup>2</sup> I, vi, 1

<sup>3</sup> *Cod Naz*, I, 47, see also *Psalms*, lxxxix, 18.

Tradition tells of a grotto, a vast cave in the deserts of Central Asia, whereinto light pours, through four seemingly natural apertures, or clefts placed crossways at the four cardinal points. From noon till an hour before sunset the light streams in, of four different colours, as averred, red, blue, orange-gold, and white, owing to some either natural or artificially prepared conditions of vegetation and soil. The light converges in the centre round a pillar of white marble with a globe upon it, which represents our earth. It is named the "Grotto of Zarathushtra"

Included under the arts and sciences of the Fourth Race, the Atlanteans, the phenomenal manifestation of the Four Elements, which were justly attributed by these believers to the intelligent interference of the Cosmic Gods assumed a scientific character. The *Magic* of the ancient priests consisted, in those days, in addressing *their Gods in their own language*

*The speech of the men of the Earth cannot reach the Lords. Each must be addressed in the language of his respective Element.*

So says *The Book of Rules*, in a sentence which will be shown pregnant with meaning, adding as an explanation of the nature of that *Element-language* :

*It is composed of SOUNDS, not words, of sounds, numbers and figures. He who knows how to blend the three, will call forth the response of the superintending Power [the Regent-God of the specific Element needed].*

Thus this "language" is that of *incantations* or of *MANTRAS*, as they are called in India, sound being *the most potent and effectual magic agent, and the first of the keys which opens the door of communication between Mortals and the Immortals*. He who believes in the words and teachings of St. Paul, has no right to pick out from the latter those sentences only which he chooses to accept, to the rejection of others, and St. Paul teaches most undeniably the existence of Cosmic Gods and their presence among us. Paganism preached a dual and simultaneous evolution, a "creation" *spiritualem ac mundanum* [spiritual and earthly], as the Roman Church has it, ages before the advent of that Roman Church. Exoteric phraseology has changed little with respect to Divine Hierarchies since the most palmy days of Paganism, or "Idolatry." Names alone have changed, together with claims which have now become false pretences. For when, for instance, Plato put in the mouth of the Highest Principle "Father Æther," or Jupiter, the words, "the Gods of the Gods of whom I am the *maker* (opifex), as I am the father of all their works (*operumque parens*)", he knew the spirit of this sentence as fully, we suspect, as St. Paul did, when saying: "For though there be that are called Gods, whether in Heaven or in Earth, as there be Gods

many and Lords many. . . .<sup>1</sup> Both knew the sense and the meaning of what they put forward in such guarded terms.

[We cannot be taken to task by the Protestants for interpreting the verse from the *Corinthians* as we do ; for, if the translation in the English Bible is made ambiguous, it is not so in the original texts, and the Roman Catholic Church accepts the words of the Apostle in their true sense. For a proof see St. Dionysius, the Areopagite, who was “ *directly inspired* by the Apostle,” and “ *who wrote under his dictation*,” as we are assured by the Marquis de Mirville, whose works are approved by Rome, and who says, commenting on the special verse “ And, though there are (in fact) they who are called Gods, for it seems there are really *several Gods*, withal and for all that, the *God-Principle* and the Superior God ceases not to remain essentially *one* and indivisible.”<sup>2</sup> Thus spoke the old Initiates also, knowing that the worship of minor Gods could never affect the “ *God Principle*.”]<sup>3</sup>

Says Sir W. Grove, F.R.S., speaking of the correlation of forces :

The ancients, when they witnessed a natural phenomenon, removed from ordinary analogies, and unexplained by any mechanical action known to them, referred it to a soul, a spiritual or preternatural power . . . . Air and gases were also at first deemed spiritual, but subsequently they became invested with a more material character, and the same words *πνεῦμα*, spirit, etc., were used to signify the soul or a gas, the very word gas, from *geist*, a ghost or spirit, affords us an instance of the gradual transmission [transmutation] of a spiritual into a physical conception<sup>4</sup>

This, the great man of Science, in his preface to his sixth edition of his work, considers to be the *only* concern of exact Science, which has no business to meddle with the CAUSES.

Cause and effect are, therefore, in their abstract relation to these forces, words solely of convenience. We are totally unacquainted with the *ultimate generating power* of each and all of them, and probably shall ever remain so, we can only ascertain the *normæ* of their actions: we must humbly refer their causation to one omnipresent influence, and content ourselves with studying their effects and developing, by experiment, their mutual relations.

This policy once accepted, and the system virtually admitted in the above-quoted words, namely, the *spirituality* of the “ *ultimate generating power*,” it would be more than illogical to refuse to recognize this quality which is inherent in the *material elements*, or rather, in their compounds, as present in the fire, air, water or earth. The Ancients knew these powers so well, that, while concealing their true nature under various allegories, for the benefit, or to the detriment, of the uneducated rabble, they never departed

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor., viii, 5

<sup>2</sup> Concerning Divine Names, traduction Darboy, p. 364 [Quoted in *Des Esprits*, Vol. II, p. 322]

<sup>3</sup> See de Mirville, *Des Esprits*, Vol. II, p. 322

<sup>4</sup> *The Correlation of Physical Forces*, p. 89

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, xiv.

from the multiple object in view, while inverting them. They contrived to throw a thick veil over the nucleus of truth concealed by the symbol, but they ever tried to preserve the latter as a *record* for future generations, sufficiently transparent to allow their wise men to discern the truth behind the fabulous form of the glyph or allegory. These ancient sages are accused of *superstition* and *credulity*; and this too by the very nations, which, though learned in all the modern arts and sciences, and cultured and wise in their generation, accept to this day as their one living and infinite God, the anthropomorphic "Jehovah" of the Jews!

What were some of these alleged "superstitions"? Hesiod believed, for instance, that "the winds were the sons of the Giant Typhæus," who were chained and unchained at will by Æolus, and the polytheistic Greeks accepted it along with Hesiod. Why should they not, since the monotheistic Jews had the same beliefs, with other names for their *dramatis personæ*, and since Christians believe in the same to this day? The Hesiodic Æolus, Boreas, etc., were named *Kedem*, *Tzephum*, *Derum*, and *Ruach Hayum* by the "chosen people" of Israel. What is, then, the fundamental difference? While the Hellenes were taught that Æolus tied and untied the winds, the Jews believed as fervently that their Lord God, with "smoke" coming "out of his nostrils and fire out of his mouth," . . . rode upon a cherub and did fly; and he was seen upon the wings of the wind."<sup>1</sup> The expressions of the two nations are either both figures of speech, or both *superstitions*. We think they are neither; but only arise from a keen sense of oneness with Nature, and a perception of the mysterious and the intelligent behind every natural phenomenon, which the moderns no longer possess. Nor was it "superstitious" in the Greek Pagans to listen to the oracle of Delphi, when, at the approach of the fleet of Xerxes, that oracle advised them to "sacrifice to the winds," if the same has to be regarded as *Divine Worship* in the Israelites, who sacrificed as often to the wind and also especially to the fire. Do they not say that their "God is a consuming fire,"<sup>2</sup> who appeared generally as fire and "encompassed by fire"? and did not Elijah seek for the "Lord" in the "great strong wind, and in the earthquake"? Do not the Christians repeat the same after them? Do not they, moreover, sacrifice to this day, to the same "God of Wind and Water"? They do; because special prayers for rain, dry weather, trade-winds, and the calming of storms on the seas, exist to this hour in the prayer-books of the three Christian Churches; and the several hundred sects of the Protestant religion offer them to their God upon every threat of calamity. The fact that they are no more answered by Jehovah, than they were, probably,

<sup>1</sup> II Sam., xxii. 9, 11

<sup>2</sup> Deut., iv, 24

by Jupiter Pluvius, does not alter the fact of these prayers being addressed to the Power, or Powers, supposed to rule over the Elements, or of these Powers being identical in Paganism and Christianity ; or have we to believe that such prayers are crass idolatry and absurd " superstition " only when addressed by a Pagan to his " idol," and that the same superstition is suddenly transformed into *praiseworthy piety* and *religion* whenever the name of the celestial addressee is changed ? But the tree is known by its fruit. And the fruit of the Christian tree being no better than that of the tree of Paganism, why should the former command more reverence than the latter ?

Thus, when we are told by the Chevalier Drach, a converted Jew, and by the Marquis de Mirville, a Roman Catholic fanatic of the French aristocracy, that in Hebrew *lightning* is a synonym of *fury*, and is always handled by the evil Spirit ; that *Jupiter Fulgur* or *Fulgurans* is also called by the Christians *Elicius*, and denounced as the soul of *lightning*, its Dæmon,<sup>1</sup> we have either to apply the same explanation and definitions to the " Lord God of Israel," under the same circumstances, or renounce our right of abusing the Gods and creeds of other nations.

The foregoing statements, emanating as they do from two ardent and learned Roman Catholics, are, to say the least, *dangerous*, in the presence of the *Bible* and its prophets. Indeed, if Jupiter, the " chief Dæmon of the Pagan Greeks," hurled his deadly thunder-bolts and lightnings at those who excited his wrath, so did the Lord God of Abraham and Jacob. For we read that :

The Lord thundered from heaven, and the most High uttered his voice. And he sent out arrows [thunder-bolts] and scattered them [Saul's armies], lightning, and discomfited them.<sup>2</sup>

The Athenians are accused of having sacrificed to Boreas ; and this " Dæmon " is charged with having submerged and wrecked 400 ships of the Persian fleet on the rocks of Mount Pelion, and of having become so furious that all the Magi of Xerxes could hardly counteract him by offering contra-sacrifices to Thetis." Very fortunately, no authenticated instance is on the records of Christian wars, showing a like catastrophe on the same scale happening to one Christian fleet, owing to the " prayers " of its enemy—another Christian nation. But this is from no fault of theirs, for each prays as ardently to Jehovah for the destruction of the other, as the Athenians prayed to Boreas. Both resorted to a neat little piece of black magic *con amore*. Such abstinence from divine interference being hardly due to lack of prayers, sent to a common Almighty God for mutual destruction, where, then, shall we draw the line

<sup>1</sup> Op cit , Vol III, 415

<sup>2</sup> II Sam , xxii, 14, 15

<sup>3</sup> Herodotus, *Polymnia*, 190-1

between Pagan and Christian ? And who can doubt that all Protestant England would rejoice and offer thanks to the Lord, if during some future war, 400 ships of the hostile fleet were to be wrecked owing to such holy prayers ? What is, then, the difference, we ask again, between a Jupiter, a Boreas, and a Jehovah ? No more than this : The crime of one's own next-of-kin, say of one's father, is always excused and often exalted, whereas the crime of our neighbour's parent is ever gladly punished by hanging. Yet the crime is the same.

So far the " blessings of Christianity " do not seem to have made any appreciable advance on the morals of the converted Pagans.

The above is not a defence of Pagan Gods, nor is it an attack on the Christian Deity, nor does it mean belief in either. The writer is quite impartial, and rejects the testimony in favour of both, neither praying to, believing in, nor dreading any such " personal " and anthropomorphic God. The parallels are brought forward simply as one more curious exhibition of the illogical and blind fanaticism of the civilized theologian. For, so far, there is not a very great difference between the two beliefs, and there is none in their respective effects upon *morality*, or spiritual nature. The " light of Christ " shines upon as hideous features of the animal man now, as the " light of Lucifer " did in days of old. Says the missionary Lavoisier, of Cochin, in the *Journal des Colonies* :

These unfortunate heathens in their superstition regard even the Elements as something that has comprehension ! They still have faith in their idol Vāyu—the God or, rather, Demon of the Wind and Air—they firmly believe in the efficacy of their prayers, and in the powers of their Brāhmans over the winds and storms

In reply to this, we may quote from Luke : " And he [Jesus] arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water, and they ceased and there was a calm." <sup>1</sup> And here is another quotation from a Prayer Book : " O Virgin of the Sea, blessed Mother and Lady of the Waters, stay thy waves." This prayer of the Neapolitan and Provençal sailors, is copied textually from that of the Phœnician mariners to their Virgin-Goddess Astarte. The logical and irrepressible conclusion arising from the parallels brought forward, and the denunciation of the missionary, is that the *commands* of the Brāhmans to their Element-Gods *not remaining* " *ineffectual*," the power of the Brāhmans is thus placed on a par with that of Jesus. Moreover, Astarte is shown not a whit weaker in potency than the " Virgin of the Sea " of Christian sailors. It is not enough to give a dog a bad name, and then hang him ; the dog has to be proven guilty. Boreas and Astarte may be *Devils* in theological fancy,

<sup>1</sup> Ch. viii, 24.

but, as just remarked, the tree has to be judged by its fruit. And once the Christians are shown to be as immoral and as wicked as the Pagans ever were, what benefit has humanity derived from its change of gods and idols?

That which God and the Christian Saints are justified in doing, becomes in simple mortals a crime, if successful. Sorcery and incantations are now regarded as fables, yet from the *Institutes of Justinian* down to the laws of England and America against witchcraft—obsolete but not repealed to this day—such incantations, even when only suspected, were punished as criminal. Why punish a chimera? And still we read of Constantine, the Emperor, sentencing to death the philosopher Sopatrus for *unchaining the winds*, and thus preventing ships laden with grain from arriving in time to put an end to famine. Pausanias is derided when he affirms that he saw with his own eyes “men who by simple *prayers and incantations*” stopped a strong hail-storm. This does not prevent modern Christian writers from advising prayer during storm and danger, and believing in its efficacy. Hoppo and Stadlein, two magicians and sorcerers, were sentenced to death for “throwing charms on fruit” and transferring a harvest *by magic arts* from one field to another, hardly a century ago, if we can believe Sprenger, the famous writer, who vouches for it. “*Qui fruges excantassent segetem pellicentes incantando.*” [Who enchanted the fruits and drew away the crops by their magic.]

Let us close by reminding the reader that, without the smallest shadow of superstition, one may believe in the dual nature of every object on Earth, in spiritual and material, in visible and invisible Nature, and that Science virtually proves this, while denying its own demonstration. For if, as Sir William Grove says, the electricity we handle is but the *result* of ordinary matter affected by something invisible, the “*ultimate generating power*” of every Force, the “*one omnipresent influence,*” then it only becomes natural that one should believe as the Ancients did, namely, that every Element is *dual* in its nature. “*ETHEREAL Fire is the emanation of the Kabir proper, the aerial, is but the union [correlation] of the former with terrestrial fire, and its guidance and application on our earthly plane belongs to a Kabir of a lesser dignity*”—an Elemental, perhaps, as an Occultist would call it, and the same may be said of every Cosmic Element.

No one will deny that the human being is possessed of various forces, magnetic, sympathetic, antipathetic, nervous, dynamical, occult, mechanical, mental, in fact of every kind of force, and that the physical forces are all biological in their essence, seeing that they intermingle with, and often merge into, those forces that we have named intellectual and moral, the first being

the vehicles, so to say, the *upâdhis*, of the second. No one, who does not deny soul in man, would hesitate in saying that their presence and commingling are the very essence of our being ; that they constitute the *Ego* in man, in fact. These potencies have their physiological, physical, mechanical, as well as their nervous, ecstatic, clairaudient, and clairvoyant phenomena which are now regarded and recognized as perfectly natural, even by Science. Why should man be the only exception in Nature, and why cannot even the ELEMENTS have their Vehicles, their *Vâhanas*, in what we call the PHYSICAL FORCES? And why, above all, should such beliefs be called "superstition" along with the religions of old?



## SECTION 15

### ON KWAN-SHI-YIN AND KWAN-YIN

LIKE Avalokiteshvara, Kwan-Shi-Yin has passed through several transformations, but it is an error to say of him that he is a modern invention of the Northern Buddhists, for under another appellation he has been known from the earliest times. The SECRET DOCTRINE teaches that : "*He who is the first to appear at Renovation will be the last to come before Re-absorption [Pralaya].*" Thus the Logoi of all nations, from the Vedic Vishvakarman of the Mysteries down to the Saviour of the present civilized nations, are the "Word" who was in the "Beginning" (or the re-awakening of the energizing Powers of Nature), with the ONE ABSOLUTE Born of Fire and Water, before these became distinct Elements, It was the "Maker," the fashioner or modeller, of all things. "Without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men," who finally may be called as he ever has been, the Alpha and the Omega of Manifested Nature. "The great Dragon of Wisdom is born of Fire and Water, and into Fire and Water will all be re-absorbed with him."<sup>1</sup> As this Bodhisattva is said "to assume any form he pleases," from the beginning of a Manvantara to its end, though his special birthday, or memorial day, is celebrated according to the *Kin-kwang-ming-King*, or "Luminous Sûtra of Golden Light," in the second month on the nineteenth day, and that of "Maitreya Buddha," in the first month on the first day, yet the two are one. He will appear as Maitreya Buddha, the last of the Avatâras and Buddhas, in the Seventh Race. This belief and expectation are universal throughout the East. Only it is not in the Kali Yuga, our present terrifically materialistic age of Darkness, the "Black Age," that a new Saviour of Humanity can ever appear. The Kali Yuga is "l'Age d'Or" (!) only in the *mystic* writings of some French pseudo-Occultists.<sup>2</sup>

Hence the ritual in the exoteric worship of this Deity was founded on magic. The Mantras are all taken from special books kept secret by the

<sup>1</sup> *Fa-hwa-King*

<sup>2</sup> See *La Mission des Juifs*

priests, and each is said to work a magical effect, as the reciter or reader, by simply chanting them, produces a secret causation which results in immediate effects. Kwan-Shi-Yin is Avalokiteshvara, and both are forms of the Seventh Universal Principle; while in its highest metaphysical character this Deity is the synthetic aggregation of all the Planetary Spirits, Dhyân Chohans. He is the "Self-Manifested"; in short, the "Son of the Father." Crowned with seven dragons, above his statue there appears the inscription Pu-tsi-k'iun-ling, "the universal Saviour of all living beings."

Of course the name given in the archaic volume of the STANZAS is quite different, but Kwan-Yin is a perfect equivalent. In a temple of P'u-to, the sacred island of the Buddhists in China, Kwan-Shi-Yin is represented floating on a black aquatic bird (Kâlahamsa), and pouring on the heads of mortals the elixir of life, which, as it flows, is transformed into one of the chief Dhyâni-Buddhas, the Regent of a star called the "Star of Salvation." In his third transformation Kwan-Yin is the informing Spirit or Genius of Water. In China the Dalai-Lama is believed to be an incarnation of Kwan-Shi-Yin, who in his third terrestrial appearance was a Bodhisattva, while the Teshu Lama is an incarnation of Amitâbha Buddha, or Gautama.

It may be remarked *en passant* that a writer must indeed have a diseased imagination to discover phallic worship everywhere, as do McClatchey and Hargrave Jennings. The first discovers "the old phallic gods, represented under two evident symbols, the Kheen or Yang, which is the *membrum virile*, and the Khw-an or Yin, the *puendum muliebre*, or Yom."<sup>1</sup> Such a rendering seems the more strange as Kwan-Shi-Yin (Avalokiteshvara) and Kwan-Yin, besides being now the patron Deities of the Buddhist ascetics, the Yogis of Tibet, are the Gods of chastity, and are, in their esoteric meaning, not even that which is implied in the rendering of Mr Rhys Davids' *Buddhism*: "The name Avalokiteshvara . . . means 'the Lord who looks down from on high' "<sup>2</sup> Nor is Kwan-Shi-Yin the "Spirit of the Buddhas present in the Church," but, literally interpreted, it means "the Lord that is seen," and in one sense, "the Divine SELF perceived by Self"—the human Self—that, is the Âtman or Seventh Principle, merged in the Universal, perceived by, or the object of perception to, Buddha, the Sixth Principle, or Divine Soul in man. In a still higher sense, Avalokiteshvara=Kwan-Shi-Yin, referred to as the seventh Universal Principle, is the Logos perceived by the Universal Buddha, or Soul, as the synthetic aggregate of the Dhyâni-Buddhas; and is not the "Spirit of Buddha present in the Church," but the Omnipresent Universal Spirit manifested in the temple of Kosmos or Nature. This Orientalistic etymology of

<sup>1</sup> *China Revealed*, as quoted in Hargrave Jennings' *Phallicism*, p. 273

<sup>2</sup> P. 202

Kwan and Yin is on a par with that of Yogini, which, we are told by Mr. Hargrave Jennings, is a Sanskrit word, "in the dialects pronounced Jogi or Zogee (!), and is . . . equivalent with Sena, and exactly the same as Duti or Dutica," i.e., a sacred prostitute of the temple, worshipped as Yoni or Shakti.<sup>1</sup> "The books of morality [in India] direct a faithful wife to shun the society of Yogini or females who have been adored as Sacti."<sup>2</sup> Nothing should surprise us after this. And it is, therefore, with hardly a smile that we find another preposterous absurdity quoted about "Budh," as being a name "which signifies not only the sun as the source of generation but also the male organ."<sup>3</sup> Max Muller, in treating of "False Analogies," says that "the most celebrated Chinese scholar of his time, Abel Rémusat . . . maintains that the three syllables I Hl We [in the fourteenth chapter of the *Tao-te-King*] were meant for Je-ho-vah,"<sup>4</sup> and again, Father Amyot "felt certain that the three persons of the Trinity could be recognized" in the same work. And if Abel Rémusat, why not Hargrave Jennings? Every scholar will recognize the absurdity of ever seeing in Budh, the "enlightened" and the "awakened," a "phallic symbol."

Kwan-Shi-Yin, then, is "the Son identical with his Father," mystically, or the Logos, the Word. He is called the "Dragon of Wisdom," in STANZA 3, for all the Logoi of all the ancient religious systems are connected with, and symbolized by, serpents. In old Egypt, the God Nahbkoon, "he who unites the doubles," was represented as a serpent on human legs, either with or without arms. This was the Astral Light reuniting by its dual physiological and spiritual potency the Divine-Human to its purely Divine Monad, the Prototype in "Heaven" or Nature. It was the emblem of the resurrection of Nature; of Christ with the Ophites; and of Jehovah as the brazen serpent healing those who looked at him. The serpent was also an emblem of Christ with the Templars, as is shown by the Templar degree in Masonry. The symbol of Knooph (Khnoom also), or the Soul of the World, says Champollion, "is represented among other forms under that of a huge serpent on human legs; this reptile, being the emblem of the Good Genius and the veritable Agathodæmon, is sometimes bearded."<sup>5</sup> This sacred animal is thus identical with the serpent of the Ophites, and is figured on a great number of engraved stones, called Gnostic or Basilidean gems. It appears with various heads, human and animal, but its gems are always found inscribed with the name ΧΝΟΥΒΙΣ (Chnoubis). This symbol is identical with one which, according to Iamblichus

<sup>1</sup> Op. cit., p. 60.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., or Shakti, power

<sup>3</sup> O'Brien, *Round Towers of Ireland*, p. 61, quoted by Hargrave Jennings in his *Phallicism*, p. 246

<sup>4</sup> *Introduction to the Science of Religion*, p. 332

<sup>5</sup> *Pantheon*, text 3

and Champollion, was called the "first of the Celestial Gods," the God Hermes, or Mercury, with the Greeks, to which God Hermes Trismegistus attributes the invention of, and the first initiation of men into, Magic ; and Mercury is Budh, Wisdom, Enlightenment, or "Re-awakening" into the divine Science.

To close, Kwan-Shi-Yin and Kwan-Yin are the two aspects, male and female, of the same principle in Kosmos, Nature and Man, of Divine Wisdom and Intelligence. They are the Christos-Sophia of the mystic Gnostics, the Logos and its Shakti. In their longing for the expression of some mysteries never to be wholly comprehended by the profane, the Ancients, knowing that nothing could be preserved in human memory without some outward symbol, have chosen the, to us, often ridiculous images of the Kwan-Yins to remind man of his origin and inner nature. To the impartial, however, the Madonnas in crinolines and the Christs in white kid gloves must appear far more absurd than the Kwan-Shi-Yin and Kwan-Yin in their dragon-garb. The subjective can hardly be expressed by the objective. Therefore, since the symbolic formula attempts to characterize that which is above scientific reasoning, and is as often far beyond our intellects, it must needs go beyond that intellect in some shape or other, or else it will fade out from human remembrance.



VOLUME 2

PART 3

ADDENDA

ON OCCULT AND MODERN SCIENCE

The knowledge of this nether world—  
    Say, friend, what is it, false or true?  
The false, what mortal cares to know?  
    The true, what mortal ever knew?

# ADDENDA

## ON OCCULTISM AND SCIENCE

### SECTION 1

#### REASONS FOR THESE ADDENDA

MANY of the doctrines contained in the foregoing seven STANZAS and Commentaries having been studied and critically examined by some Western Theosophists, certain of the Occult Teachings have been found wanting from the ordinary stand-point of modern scientific knowledge. They seemed to encounter insuperable difficulties in the way of their acceptance, and to require reconsideration in view of scientific criticism. Some friends have already been tempted to regret the necessity of so often calling in question the assertions of modern Science. It appeared to them—and I here repeat only their arguments—that “to run counter to the teachings of its most eminent exponents, was to court a premature discomfiture in the eyes of the Western World”

It is, therefore, desirable to define, once and for all, the position which the writer, who does not in this agree with her friends, intends to maintain. So far as Science remains what in the words of Prof. T. H. Huxley it is, *viz*, “organized common sense”, so far as its inferences are drawn from accurate premisses, its generalizations resting on a purely inductive basis, every Theosophist and Occultist welcomes respectfully and with due admiration its contributions to the domain of cosmological law. There can be no possible conflict between the teachings of Occult and so-called exact Science, wherever the conclusions of the latter are grounded on a substratum of unassailable fact. It is only when its more ardent exponents, over-stepping the limits of observed phenomena in order to penetrate into the arcana of Being, attempt to wrench the formation of Kosmos and its *living* Forces from



Spirit, and to attribute all to blind Matter, that the Occultists claim the right of disputing and calling in question their theories. Science cannot, owing to the very nature of things, unveil the mystery of the Universe around us. Science can, it is true, collect, classify, and generalize upon phenomena, but the Occultist, arguing from admitted metaphysical data, declares that the daring explorer, who would probe the inmost secrets of Nature, must transcend the narrow limitations of sense, and transfer his consciousness into the region of Noumena and the sphere of Primal Causes. To effect this, he must develop faculties which, save in a few rare and exceptional cases, are absolutely dormant in the constitution of the off-shoots of our present Fifth Root-Race in Europe and America. He can in no other conceivable manner collect the facts on which to base his speculations. Is this not apparent on the principles of Inductive Logic and Metaphysics alike?

On the other hand, whatever the writer may do, she will never be able to satisfy both Truth and Science. To offer the reader a systematic and uninterrupted version of the Archaic STANZAS is impossible. A gap of 43 verses or Shlokas has to be left between the 7th, already given, and the 51st, which is the subject of Volumes 3 and 4, though the latter are made to run as from 1 onwards, for easier reading and reference. The appearance of man on Earth alone occupies an equal number of STANZAS, which minutely describe his primal evolution from the human Dhyân Chohans, the state of the Globe at that time, etc., etc. A great number of names referring to chemical substances and other compounds, which have now ceased to combine together, and are therefore unknown to the later offshoots of our Fifth Race, occupy a considerable space. As they are simply untranslatable, and would remain in every case inexplicable, they are omitted, along with those which cannot be made public. Nevertheless, even the little that is given will irritate every follower and defender of dogmatic materialistic Science who happens to read it.

In view of the criticism offered, it is proposed, before proceeding to the remaining STANZAS, to defend those already given. That they are not in perfect accord or harmony with modern Science, we all know. But had they been as much in agreement with the views of modern knowledge as is a lecture by Sir William Thomson, they would have been rejected all the same. For they teach belief in conscious Powers and Spiritual Entities; in terrestrial, semi-intelligent, and highly intellectual Forces on other planes;<sup>1</sup> and in Beings that dwell around us in spheres

<sup>1</sup> Their intellection, of course, being of quite a different nature from any we can conceive of on Earth

imperceptible, whether through telescope or microscope. Hence the necessity of examining the beliefs of materialistic Science, of comparing its views about the "Elements" with the opinions of the Ancients, and of analysing the physical Forces as they exist in modern conceptions, before the Occultists admit themselves to be in the wrong. We shall touch upon the constitution of the Sun and planets, and the Occult characteristics of what are called *Devas* and *Genii*, and are now termed by Science, Forces, or "modes of motion," and see whether Esoteric belief is defensible or not. Notwithstanding the efforts made to the contrary, an unprejudiced mind will discover that under Newton's "agent, material or immaterial,"<sup>1</sup> the agent which causes gravity, and in his personal working God, there is just as much of the metaphysical *Devas* and *Genii*, as there is in Kepler's *Angelus Rector* [Angelic Ruler] conducting each planet, and in the *species immateriata* [immaterial agent] by which the celestial bodies were carried along in their courses, according to that Astronomer.

In Volumes 3 and 4, we shall have openly to approach dangerous subjects. We must bravely face Science and declare, in the teeth of materialistic learning, of Idealism, Hylo-Idealism, Positivism and all-denying modern Psychology, that the true Occultist believes in "Lords of Light"; that he believes in a Sun, which—far from being simply a "lamp of day" moving in accordance with physical law, and far from being merely one of those Suns, which according to Richter, "are sun-flowers of a higher light"—is, like milliards of other Suns, the dwelling or the vehicle of a God, and of a host of Gods.

In this dispute, of course, it is the Occultists who will be worsted. They will be considered, on the *prima facie* aspect of the question, to be ignoramuses, and will be labelled with more than one of the usual epithets given to those whom the superficially judging public, itself ignorant of the great underlying truths in Nature, accuses of believing in medieval superstitions. Let it be so. Submitting beforehand to every criticism in order to go on with their task, they only claim the privilege of showing that the Physicists are as much at loggerheads among themselves in their speculations, as these speculations are with the teachings of Occultism.

The Sun is Matter, and the Sun is Spirit. Our ancestors, the "Heathens," like their modern successors, the Parsis, were, and are, wise enough in their generation to see in it the symbol of Divinity, and at the same time to sense within, concealed by the physical symbol, the bright God of Spiritual and Terrestrial Light. Such belief can be regarded as a superstition only by rank

<sup>1</sup> See his Third Letter to Bentley

Materialism, which denies Deity, Spirit, Soul, and admits no intelligence outside the mind of man. But if too much wrong superstition bred by "Churchianity," as Laurence Oliphant calls it, "renders a man a fool," too much scepticism makes him mad. We prefer the charge of folly in believing too much, to that of a madness which denies everything, as do Materialism and Hylo-Idealism. Hence, the Occultists are fully prepared to receive their dues from Materialism, and to meet the adverse criticism which will be poured on the author of this work, not for writing it, but for *believing in that which it contains*.

Therefore the discoveries, hypotheses, and unavoidable objections which will be brought forward by the scientific critics must be anticipated and disposed of. It has also to be shown how far the Occult Teachings depart from modern Science, and whether the ancient or the modern theories are the more logically and philosophically correct. The unity and mutual relations of all parts of Kosmos were known to the Ancients, before they became evident to modern Astronomers and Philosophers. And even if the external and visible portions of the Universe, and their mutual relations, cannot be explained in Physical Science, in any other terms than those used by the adherents of the mechanical theory of the Universe, it does not follow that the Materialist, who denies that the Soul of Kosmos (which appertains to Metaphysical Philosophy) exists, has the right to trespass upon that metaphysical domain. That Physical Science is trying to, and actually does, encroach upon it, is only one more proof that "might is right", and no more.

Another good reason for these Addenda is this. Since only a certain portion of the Secret Teachings can be given out in the present age, the doctrines would never be understood even by Theosophists, if they were published without any explanations or commentary. Therefore they must be contrasted with the speculations of modern Science. Archaic Axioms must be placed side by side with modern Hypotheses, and the comparison of their value must be left to the sagacious reader.

On the question of the "Seven Governors"—as Hermes calls the "Seven Builders," the Spirits which guide the operations of Nature, the animated atoms of which are the shadows, in their own world, of their Primaries in the Astral Realms—this work will, of course, have every Materialist against it, as well as the men of Science. But this opposition can, at most, be only temporary. People have laughed at everything unusual, and have scouted every unpopular idea at first, and have then ended by accepting it. Materialism and scepticism are evils that must remain in the world so long as man has not quitted his present gross form to don the one he had during the

First and Second Races of this Round. Unless scepticism and our present natural ignorance are equilibrated by intuition and a natural spirituality, every being afflicted with such feelings will see in himself nothing better than a bundle of flesh, bones, and muscles, with an empty garret inside, which serves the purpose of storing his sensations and feelings. Sir Humphrey Davy was a great Scientist, as deeply versed in Physics as any theorist of our day, yet he loathed Materialism. He says :

I heard with disgust, in the dissecting-rooms, the plan of the Physiologist, of the gradual secretion of matter, and its becoming endued with irritability, ripening into sensibility, and acquiring such organs as were necessary, by its own inherent forces, and at last rising into intellectual existence

Nevertheless, Physiologists are not those who should be most blamed for speaking of that only which they can see by, and estimate on the evidence of, their physical senses. Astronomers and Physicists are, we consider, far more illogical in their materialistic views than are even Physiologists, and this has to be proved. Milton's

Light

Ethereal, first of things, quintessence pure,  
has become with the Materialists only

Prime cheerer, light,  
Of all material beings, first and best <sup>1</sup>

For the Occultists it is both Spirit and Matter Behind the "mode of motion," now regarded as the "property of matter" and nothing more, they perceive the radiant Noumenon. It is the "Spirit of Light," the first-born of the Eternal pure Element, whose energy, or emanation, is stored in the Sun, the great Life-Giver of the Physical World, as the hidden concealed Spiritual Sun is the Light- and Life-Giver of the Spiritual and Psychic Realms. Bacon was one of the first to strike the key-note of Materialism, not only by his inductive method—renovated from ill-digested Aristotle—but by the general tenor of his writings. He inverts the order of mental Evolution when saying :

The first creation of God was the light of the sense, the last was the light of the reason, and his Sabbath work ever since is the illumination of the Spirit <sup>2</sup>

It is just the reverse. The light of Spirit is the eternal Sabbath of the Mystic or Occultist, and he pays little attention to that of mere sense. That which is meant by the allegorical sentence, "*Fiat Lux*," is, when esoterically rendered, "Let there be the 'Sons of Light,'" or the noumena of all phenomena. Thus the Roman Catholics rightly interpret the passage as referring to

<sup>1</sup> *Paradise Lost*, Book vii.

<sup>2</sup> Bacon's *Essay On Truth*.

Angels, but wrongly as meaning Powers created by an anthropomorphic God, whom they personify in the ever thundering and punishing Jehovah.

These beings are the "Sons of Light," because they emanate from, and are self-generated in, that infinite Ocean of Light, whose one pole is pure *Spirit* lost in the absoluteness of Non-Being, and the other pole, the *Matter* in which it condenses, crystallizing into a more and more gross type as it descends into manifestation. Therefore Matter, though it is, in one sense, but the illusive dregs of that Light whose limbs [Rays] are the Creative Forces, yet has in it the full presence of the Soul thereof, of that Principle, which none—not even the "Sons of Light," evolved from its ABSOLUTE DARKNESS—will ever know. The idea is as beautifully, as it is truthfully, expressed by Milton, who hails the holy Light, which is the

. . . . . Offspring of Heaven first-born,  
Or of th' Eternal co-eternal beam,  
. . . . . Since God is Light,  
And never but in unapproachéd Light  
Dwelt from Eternity—dwelt then in thee,  
Bright effluence of bright essence increate<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Paradise Lost*, Book III

## SECTION 2

### MODERN PHYSICISTS ARE PLAYING AT BLIND MAN'S BUFF

AND now Occultism puts to Science the question : Is light a body, or is it not? Whatever the answer of the latter, the former is prepared to show that, to this day, the most eminent Physicists have no real knowledge on the subject. To know what light is, and whether it is an actual substance or a mere undulation of the "ethereal medium," Science has first to learn what Matter, Atom, Ether, Force, are in reality. Now, the truth is, that it *knows nothing of any of these*, and admits it. It has not even agreed what to believe in, as dozens of hypotheses on the same subject, emanating from various and very eminent Scientists, are antagonistic to each other and often self-contradictory. Thus their learned speculations may, with a stretch of goodwill, be accepted as "working hypotheses" in a secondary sense, as Stallo puts it. But being radically inconsistent with each other, they must finally end by mutually destroying themselves. As declared by the author of *Concepts of Modern Physics* :

It must not be forgotten that the several departments of science are simply arbitrary divisions of science at large. In these several departments the same physical object may be considered under different aspects. The physicist may study its molecular relations, while the chemist determines its atomic constitution. But when they both deal with the same element or agent, it cannot have one set of properties in physics, and another set contradictory of them, in chemistry. If the physicist and chemist alike assume the existence of ultimate atoms absolutely invariable in bulk and weight, the atom cannot be a cube or oblate spheroid for physical, and a sphere for chemical purposes. And a group of constant atoms cannot be an aggregate of extended and absolutely inert and impenetrable masses in a crucible or retort, and a system of mere centres of force as part of a magnet or of a Clamond battery. The universal æther cannot be soft and mobile to please the chemist, and rigid-elastic to satisfy the physicist, it cannot be continuous at the command of Sir William Thomson and discontinuous on the suggestion of Cauchy or Fresnel<sup>1</sup>

The eminent Physicist, G.A.Hirn, may likewise be quoted as saying the same thing in the 43rd Volume of *Mémoires de l'Académie Royale de Belgique*, which we translate from the French, as cited :

When one sees the assurance with which to-day are affirmed doctrines which attribute the collectivity, the universality of the phenomena to the motions alone of the

<sup>1</sup> *Concepts of Modern Physics*, pp xi, xii, Introd to 2nd and 3rd Eds.

atom, one has a right to expect to find likewise unanimity in the qualities assigned to this unique being, the foundation of all that exists. Now, from the first examination of the particular systems proposed, one finds the strangest deception; one perceives that the atom of the chemist, the atom of the physicist, that of the metaphysician, and that of the mathematician . . . have absolutely nothing in common but the name! The inevitable result is the existing subdivision of our sciences, each of which, in its own little pigeon-hole, constructs an atom which satisfies the requirements of the phenomena it studies, without troubling itself in the least about the requirements proper to the phenomena of the neighbouring pigeon-hole. The metaphysician banishes the principles of attraction and repulsion as dreams, the mathematician, who analyses the laws of elasticity and those of the propagation of light, admits them implicitly, without even naming them. The chemist cannot explain the grouping of the atoms, in his often complicated molecules, without attributing to his atoms specific distinguishing qualities, *for the physicist and the metaphysician, partisans of the modern doctrines, the atom is, on the contrary, always and everywhere the same.* What am I saying? There is no agreement even in one and the same science as to the properties of the atom. Each constructs an atom to suit his own fancy, in order to explain some special phenomenon with which he is particularly concerned.<sup>1</sup>

The above is the photographically correct image of Modern Science and Physics. The "pre-requisite of that incessant play of the 'scientific imagination,'" which is so often found in Professor Tyndall's eloquent discourses, is *vivid* indeed, as is shown by Stallo, and for contradictory variety it leaves far behind it any "phantasies" of Occultism. However that may be, if physical theories are confessedly "mere formal, explanatory, didactic devices," and if, to use the words of a critic of Stallo, "atomism is only a symbolical and later a graphic system,"<sup>2</sup> than the Occultist can hardly be regarded as assuming too much, when he places alongside of these "devices" and "symbolical systems" of Modern Science, the symbols and devices of Archaic Teachings.

"AN LUMEN SIT CORPUS, NEC-NON?"

"Is Light a Body, or not?"

Most decidedly light is not a body, we are told. Physical Sciences say light is a force, a vibration, the undulation of Ether. It is the property or quality of Matter, or even an affection thereof—never a *body*!

Just so. For this discovery, the knowledge, whatever it may be worth, that light or caloric is not a motion of *material particles*, Science is chiefly, if not solely, indebted to Sir William Grove. It was he who, in a lecture at the

<sup>1</sup> *Recherches expérimentales sur la relation qui existe entre la résistance de l'air et sa température.* [Experimental researches into the relation existing between the resistance and the temperature of air] p. 68, translated from Stallo's quotation, p. 12, Introduction.

<sup>2</sup> From the Criticism of Concepts of Modern Physics, in *Nature*. See Stallo's work, p. xvi of Introduction. [The criticisms referred to are in the *New York Nation*, not *Nature*.—Ed.]

London Institution, in 1842, was the first to show that "heat, light,<sup>1</sup> may be considered as affections . . . of matter itself, and not of a distinct ethereal, [imponderable] fluid [a state of matter now] permeating it"<sup>2</sup> Yet, perhaps, for some Physicists—as for Oersted, a very eminent Scientist—FORCE and FORCES were tacitly "Spirit [and hence Spirits] in Nature." What several rather mystical Scientists taught was that light, heat, magnetism, electricity and gravity, etc., were not the final causes of the visible phenomena, including planetary motion, but were themselves the secondary effects of other Causes, for which Science in our day cares very little, but in which Occultism believes; for the Occultists have exhibited proofs of the validity of their claims in every age. And in what age were there no Occultists and no ADEPTS?

Sir Isaac Newton held to the Pythagorean corpuscular theory, and was also inclined to admit its consequences; which made the Comte de Maistre hope, at one time, that Newton would ultimately lead Science back to the recognition of the fact that *Forces* and the Celestial Bodies were *propelled and guided by Intelligences*.<sup>3</sup> But de Maistre counted without his host. The innermost thoughts and ideas of Newton were perverted, and of his great mathematical learning only the mere physical husk was turned to account.

[According to one atheistic Idealist, Dr. Lewins.]

When Sir Isaac, in 1687 showed mass and atom acted upon . . . by innate activity he effectually disposed of Spirit, Anima, or divinity, as supererogatory]

Had poor Sir Isaac foreseen to what use his successors and followers would apply his "gravity," that pious and religious man would surely have quietly eaten his apple, and never have breathed a word about any mechanical ideas connected with its fall.

Great contempt is shown by Scientists for Metaphysics generally and for Ontological Metaphysics especially. But whenever the Occultists are bold enough to raise their diminished heads, we see that Materialistic, Physical

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Robert Ward, discussing the questions of Heat and Light in the November *Journal of Science*, 1881, shows us how utterly ignorant is Science about one of the commonest facts of Nature—the heat of the Sun. He says "The question of the temperature of the sun has been the subject of investigation with many scientists. Newton, one of the first investigators of this problem, tried to determine it, and after him all the scientists who have been occupied with calorimetry have followed his example. All have believed themselves successful, and have formulated their results with great confidence. The following, in the chronological order of the publication of the results, are the temperatures (in centigrade degrees) found by each of them: Newton, 1,699,300°, Pouillet, 1,461°, Tollner, 102,200°, Secchi, 5,344,840°, Ericsson, 2,726,700°, Fizeau, 7,500°, Waterston, 9,000,000°, Sporen, 27,000°, Deville, 9,500°, Soret, 5,801,846°, Vicaire, 1,500°, Rosetti, 20,000°. The difference is as 1,400° against 9,000,000°, or no less than 8,998,600°!" There probably does not exist in science a more astonishing contradiction than that revealed in these figures. And yet without doubt if an Occultist were to give out an estimate, each of these gentlemen would vehemently protest in the name of "exact" Science at the rejection of his special result.

<sup>2</sup> See *Correlation of the Physical Forces*, Preface, p. xiii.

<sup>3</sup> *Soirées*, vol. II.



Science is honey-combed with Metaphysics;<sup>1</sup> that its most fundamental principles, while inseparably wedded to transcendentalism, are nevertheless, in order to show modern Science divorced from such "dreams," tortured and often ignored in the maze of contradictory theories and hypotheses. A very good corroboration of this charge lies in the fact that Science finds itself absolutely compelled to accept the "hypothetical" Ether, and to try to explain it on the materialistic grounds of atomo-mechanical laws. This attempt has led directly to the most fatal discrepancies and radical inconsistencies between the assumed nature of Ether and its physical behaviour. A second proof is found in the many contradictory statements made about the Atom—the most metaphysical object in creation.

Now, what does the modern science of Physics know of Æther, the first concept of which belongs undeniably to ancient Philosophers, the Greeks having borrowed it from the Âryans, and the origin of modern Æther being found in, and disfigured from, ÂKÂSHA? This disfigurement is claimed as a modification and refinement of the idea of Lucretius. Let us then examine the modern concept, from several scientific volumes containing the admissions of the Physicists themselves.

As Stallo shows, the existence of Ether is accepted in Physical Astronomy, in ordinary Physics, and in Chemistry.

By the astronomers, this æther was originally regarded as a fluid of extreme tenuity and mobility, offering no sensible resistance to the motions of celestial bodies, and the question of its continuity or discontinuity was not seriously mooted. Its main function in modern astronomy has been to serve as a basis for hydrodynamical theories

<sup>1</sup> Stallo's above-cited work, *Concepts of Modern Physics*, a volume which has called forth the liveliest protest and criticisms, is recommended to anyone inclined to doubt this statement. "The professed antagonism of science to metaphysical speculation," he writes, "has led the majority of scientific specialists to assume that the methods and results of empirical research are wholly independent of the control of the laws of thought. They either silently ignore, or openly repudiate, the simplest canons of logic, including the laws of non-contradiction, and resent with the utmost vehemence every application of the rule of consistency to their hypotheses and theories and they regard an examination (of them) in the light of these laws as an impertinent intrusion of 'a priori principles and methods' into the domains of empirical science. Persons of this cast of mind find no difficulty in holding that atoms are absolutely inert, and at the same time asserting that these atoms are perfectly elastic, or in maintaining that the physical universe, in its last analysis, resolves itself into 'dead' matter and motion, and yet denying that all physical energy is in reality kinetic, or in proclaiming that all phenomenal differences in the objective world are ultimately due to the various motions of absolutely simple material units, and, nevertheless, repudiating the proposition that these units are equal" (p. xix). The blindness of eminent Physicists to some of the most obvious consequences of their own theories is marvellous. "When Prof. Tait, in conjunction with Prof. Stewart, announces that 'matter is simply passive' (*The Unseen Universe*, sec. 104), and then, in connection with Sir William Thomson, declares that 'matter has an innate power of resisting external influences' (*Treat on Nat. Phil.*, Vol. I, sec. 216), it is hardly impertinent to inquire how these statements are to be reconciled. When Prof. Du Bois Reymond insists upon the necessity of reducing all the processes of nature to motions of a substantial, indifferent substratum, wholly destitute of quality (*Ueber die Grenzen des Naturerkennens*, p. 5), having declared shortly before in the same lecture that 'resolution of all changes in the material world into motions of atoms caused by their constant central forces would be the completion of natural science,' we are in a perplexity from which we have the right to be relieved" (Preface, xlii-iii).

of gravitation. In physics this fluid appeared for some time in several rôles in connection with the "imponderables" [so cruelly put to death by Sir William Grove], some physicists going so far as to identify it with one or more of them<sup>1</sup>

Stallo then points out the change caused by the Kinetic theories, that from the date of the dynamical theory of heat, Ether was chosen in Optics as a substratum for luminous undulations. Next, in order to explain the dispersion and polarization of light, Physicists had to resort once more to their "scientific imagination," and forthwith endowed the Ether with (a) atomic or molecular structure, and (b) with an enormous elasticity, "so that its resistance to deformation far exceeded that of the most rigid elastic bodies." This necessitated the *theory of the essential discontinuity of Matter*, hence of Ether. After having accepted this discontinuity, in order to account for dispersion and polarization, theoretical impossibilities were discovered with regard to such dispersion. Cauchy's "scientific imagination" saw in Atoms "material points without extension," and he proposed, in order to obviate the most formidable obstacles to the undulatory theory (namely, some well-known mechanical theorems which stood in the way), to assume that the ethereal medium of propagation, instead of being continuous, should consist of particles separated by sensible distances. Fresnel rendered the same service to the phenomena of polarization. E. B. Hunt upset the theories of both.<sup>2</sup> There are now men of Science who proclaim them "materially fallacious," while others—the atomo-mechanists"—cling to them with desperate tenacity. The supposition of an *atomic or molecular constitution* of Ether is upset, moreover, by thermo-dynamics, for Clerk Maxwell showed that such a medium would be simply gas<sup>3</sup>. The hypothesis of "finite intervals" is thus proven of no avail as a supplement to the undulatory theory. Besides, eclipses fail to reveal any such variation of colour as is supposed by Cauchy, on the assumption that the chromatic rays are propagated with different velocities. Astronomy has pointed out more than one phenomenon absolutely at variance with this doctrine.

Thus, while in one department of Physics the atomo-molecular constitution of the Ether is accepted in order to account for one special set of phenomena, in another department such a constitution is found to be quite subversive of a number of well-ascertained facts, and Hirn's charges are thus justified. Chemistry deemed it

impossible to concede the enormous elasticity of the æther without depriving it of those properties, upon which its serviceableness in the construction of chemical theories mainly depended

<sup>1</sup> Stallo, loc cit., p. ix

<sup>2</sup> *Silliman's Journal*, vol. VIII, pp. 364 et seq.

<sup>3</sup> See Clerk Maxwell's *Treatise on Electricity*, and compare with Cauchy's *Mémoire sur la Dispersion de la Lumière*

This ended in a final transformation of Ether.

The exigencies of the atomo-mechanical theory have led distinguished mathematicians and physicists to attempt a substitution for the traditional atoms of matter, of peculiar forms of vortical motion in a universal, homogeneous, incompressible, and *continuous* material medium [Ether] <sup>1</sup>

The present writer—claiming no great scientific education, but only a tolerable acquaintance with modern theories, and a better one with Occult Sciences—picks up weapons against the detractors of the Esoteric Teaching in the very arsenal of modern Science. The glaring contradictions, the mutually-destructive hypotheses of world-renowned Scientists, their disputes, their accusations and denunciations of each other, show plainly that, whether accepted or not, the Occult Theories have as much right to a hearing as any of the so-called learned and academical hypotheses. Thus, whether the followers of the Royal Society choose to accept Ether as a *continuous* or as a *discontinuous* fluid matters little, and is indifferent for the present purpose. It simply points to one certainty. Official Science *knows nothing to this day of the constitution of Ether*. Let Science call it Matter, if it likes; only neither as Âkâsha, nor as the one sacred Æther of the Greeks, is it to be found in any of the states of Matter known to modern Physics. It is MATTER on quite another plane of perception and being, and it can neither be analyzed by scientific apparatus, nor appreciated or even conceived by the “scientific imagination,” unless the possessors thereof study the Occult Sciences. That which follows proves this statement.

It is clearly demonstrated by Stallo, as regards the crucial problems of modern Physics, as was done by De Quatrefages and several others in those of Anthropology, Biology, etc., that, in their efforts to support their individual hypotheses and systems, most of the eminent and learned Materialists very often utter the greatest fallacies. Let us take the following case. Most of them reject *actio in distans* [action at a distance]—one of the fundamental principles in the question of Æther or Âkâsha in Occultism—while, as Stallo justly observes, there is no physical action “which, on close examination, does not resolve itself into *actio in distans*”, and he proves it.

Now, metaphysical arguments, according to Professor [Sir Oliver] Lodge,<sup>2</sup> are “unconscious appeals to experience.” And he adds that if such an experience *is not conceivable*, then it does not exist. In his own words

If a highly-developed mind, or set of minds, find a doctrine about some comparatively simple and fundamental matter absolutely unthinkable, it is an evidence . . . that the unthinkable state of things has no existence

<sup>1</sup> Stallo, loc. cit., p. x

<sup>2</sup> *Nature*, vol. xxvii, p. 304

And thereupon, toward the end of his lecture, the Professor indicates that the explanation of cohesion, as well as of gravity, "is to be looked for in the vortex-atom theory of Sir William Thomson."

It is needless to stop to inquire whether it is to this vortex-atom theory, also, that we have to look for the dropping down on earth of the first life-germ by a passing meteor or comet—Sir William Thomson's hypothesis. But Prof. Lodge might be reminded of the wise criticism on his lecture in Stallo's *Concepts of Modern Physics*. Noticing the above-quoted declaration by the Professor, the author asks

Whether . . . the elements of the vortex-atom theory are familiar, or even possible, facts of experience? For, if they are not, clearly that theory is obnoxious to the same criticism which is said to invalidate the assumption of *actio in distans*<sup>1</sup>

And then the able critic shows clearly what the Ether *is not*, nor can ever be, notwithstanding all scientific claims to the contrary. And thus he opens widely, if unconsciously, the entrance door to our Occult Teachings. For, as he says .

The medium in which the vortex-movements arise is, according to Professor Lodge's own express statement (*Nature*, vol xxvii, p 305), "a perfectly homogeneous, incompressible, continuous body, incapable of being resolved into simple elements or atoms, it is, in fact, continuous, not molecular" And after making this statement Professor Lodge adds "There is no other body of which we can say this, and hence the properties of the æther must be somewhat different from those of ordinary matter" It appears, then, that the whole vortex-atom theory, which is offered to us as a substitute for the "metaphysical theory" of *actio in distans*, rests upon the hypothesis of the existence of a material medium which is utterly unknown to experience, and which has properties somewhat different<sup>2</sup> from those of ordinary matter Hence this theory, instead of being, as is claimed, a reduction of an unfamiliar fact of experience to a familiar fact, is on the contrary, a reduction of a fact which is perfectly familiar, to a fact which is not only unfamiliar, but wholly unknown, unobserved and unobservable. Furthermore, the alleged vortical motion of, or rather in, the assumed ethereal medium is impossible, because "motion in a perfectly homogeneous, incompressible, and therefore continuous fluid, is not sensible motion" It is manifest, therefore that, wherever the vortex-atom theory may land us, it certainly does not land us anywhere in the region of physics, or in the domain of *veræ causæ* [real causes]<sup>3</sup> And I may add that, inasmuch as the hypothetical undifferentiated<sup>4</sup> and undifferentiable medium is clearly an involuntary reification of the old ontological concept *pure being*, the theory under discussion has all the attributes of an inapprehensible metaphysical phantom<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Op cit, p xxiv

<sup>2</sup> "Somewhat different!" exclaims Stallo "The real import of this 'somewhat' is, that the medium in question is not, in any intelligible sense, material at all, having none of the properties of matter" All the properties of matter depend upon differences, and changes, and the "hypothetical" Ether here defined is not only destitute of differences, but incapable of difference and change—in the physical sense let us add This proves that if Ether is "matter," it is so only as something visible, tangible and existing, for *spiritual* sense alone, that it is a Being indeed—but not of our plane—Pater Æther, or Akāsha

<sup>3</sup> *Veræ causæ* for Physical Science are *māyāvic* or illusory causes for the Occultist, and vice versa

<sup>4</sup> Very much "differentiated," on the contrary, since the day it left its *laya* condition

<sup>5</sup> Op cit, pp xxiv-vi

A “phantom,” indeed, which can be made apprehensible only by Occultism. From such scientific Metaphysics to Occultism there is hardly one step. Those Physicists who hold the view that the atomic constitution of Matter is consistent with its penetrability, need not go far out of their way to be able to account for the greatest phenomena of Occultism, now so derided by Physical Scientists and Materialists. Cauchy’s “material points without extension” are Leibnitz’s Monads, and at the same time are the materials out of which the “Gods” and other invisible Powers clothe themselves in bodies. The disintegration and reintegration of “material” particles without extension, as a chief factor in phenomenal manifestations, ought to suggest themselves very easily as a *clear possibility*, at any rate to those few scientific minds which accept M. Cauchy’s views. For, disposing of that property of Matter which they call impenetrability by simply regarding the Atoms as “material points exerting on each other attractions and repulsions which vary with the distances that separate them,” the French theorist explains that:

From this it follows that, if it pleased the author of nature simply to modify the laws according to which the atoms attract or repel each other, we might instantly see the hardest bodies penetrating each other, the smallest particles of matter occupying immense spaces, or the largest masses reducing themselves to the smallest volumes, the entire universe concentrating itself, as it were, in a single point<sup>1</sup>

And that “point,” *invisible on our plane of perception and matter*, is quite visible to the eye of the Adept who can follow and see it present on other planes. [For the Occultists, who say that the author of Nature is *Nature itself*, something indistinct and inseparable from the Deity, it follows that those who are conversant with the *Occult laws* of Nature, and know how to change and provoke new conditions in Ether, may—not modify the laws, but work and do the same in accordance with these immutable laws.]

<sup>1</sup> Sept Leçons de Physique Générale, p. 38, et seq., Ed. Moigno

## SECTION 3

### IS GRAVITATION A LAW ?

THE corpuscular theory has been unceremoniously put aside, but gravitation—the principle that all bodies attract each other with a force proportional directly to their masses, and inversely to the squares of the distances between them—survives to this day and reigns, supreme as ever, in the alleged ethereal waves of Space. As a hypothesis, it had been threatened with death for its inadequacy to embrace all the facts presented to it; as a *physical law*, it is the King of the late and once all-potent “Imponderables.” “It is little short of blasphemy . . . an insult to Newton’s grand memory to doubt it!”—is the exclamation of an American reviewer of *Isis Unveiled*. Well; what is finally that *invisible and intangible* God in whom we should believe on blind faith? Astronomers who see in gravitation an easy-going solution for many things, and a *universal* force which allows them to calculate planetary motions, care little about the Cause of Attraction. They call Gravity a law, a *cause* in itself. We call the forces acting under that name effects, and very secondary *effects*, too. One day it will be found that the scientific hypothesis does not answer after all, and then it will follow the corpuscular theory of light, and be consigned to rest for many scientific æons in the archives of all exploded speculations. Has not Newton himself expressed grave doubts about the nature of Force and the corporeality of the “Agents,” as they were then called? So has Cuvier, another scientific light shining in the night of research. He warns his readers, in the *Révolution du Globe*, about the doubtful nature of the so-called Forces, saying that “it is not so sure whether those agents were not after all Spiritual Powers [*des agents spirituels*].” At the outset of his *Principia*, Sir Isaac Newton took the greatest care to impress upon his school that he did not use the word “attraction,” with regard to the mutual action of bodies in a physical sense. To him it was, he said, a purely mathematical conception, involving no consideration of real

and primary physical causes. In a passage of his *Principia*,<sup>1</sup> he tells us plainly that, physically considered, attractions are rather *impulses*. In Section xi (Introduction), he expresses the opinion that "there is some subtle spirit by the force and action of which all movements of matter are determined";<sup>2</sup> and in his *Third Letter*, to Bentley he says:

It is inconceivable that inanimate brute matter should, without the mediation of something else *which is not material*, operate upon and affect other matter, without mutual contact, as it must do if gravitation, in the sense of Epicurus, be essential and inherent in it. That gravity should be innate, inherent and essential to matter, so that one body may act upon another at a distance, through a vacuum, without the mediation of anything else by and through which their action may be conveyed from one to another, is to me so great an absurdity that I believe no man, who has in philosophical matters a competent faculty of thinking, can ever fall into it. Gravity must be caused by an agent acting constantly according to certain laws, but *whether this agent be material or immaterial* I have left to the consideration of my readers

At this, even Newton's contemporaries got frightened—at the apparent return of *Occult Causes* into the domain of Physics. Leibnitz called his principle of attraction "an incorporeal and inexplicable power." The supposition of an attractive faculty and a perfect void was characterized by Bernoulli as "revolting," the principle of *actio in distans* finding then no more favour than it does now. Euler, on the other hand, thought the action of gravity was due to either a *Spirit* or some subtle medium. And yet Newton knew of, if he did not accept, the Ether of the Ancients. He regarded the intermediate space between the sidereal bodies as vacuum. Therefore he believed in "subtle Spirit" and Spirits as we do, guiding the so-called attraction. The above-quoted words of the great man have produced poor results. The "absurdity" has now become a dogma in the case of pure Materialism, which repeats: "No matter without force, no force without matter, matter and force are inseparable, eternal and indestructible [*true*]; there can be no independent force, since all force is an inherent and necessary property of matter [*false*]; consequently, there is no immaterial creative power." Oh, poor Sir Isaac!

If, leaving aside all the other eminent men of Science who agreed in opinion with Euler and Leibnitz, the Occultists claim as their authorities and supporters Sir Isaac Newton and Cuvier only, as above cited, they need fear little from modern Science, and may loudly and proudly proclaim their beliefs. But the hesitation and doubts of the above cited authorities, and of many others, too, whom we could name, did not in the least prevent scientific speculation from wool-gathering in the fields of brute matter just as before. First it was matter and an imponderable fluid distinct from it; then came the

<sup>1</sup> Defin. 8, Bk. I Prop. 69, "Scholium." <sup>2</sup> See *Modern Materialism*, by the Rev W. F. Wilkinson.

imponderable fluid so much criticized by Grove; then Æther, which was at first discontinuous and then became continuous; after which came the "mechanical" Forces. These have now settled in life as "modes of motion," and the Æther has become more mysterious and problematical than ever. More than one man of Science objects to such crude materialistic views. But then, from the days of Plato, who repeatedly asks his readers not to confuse *incorporeal* Elements with their PRINCIPLES—the transcendental or spiritual Elements; from those of the great Alchemists, who, like Paracelsus, made a great difference between a phenomenon and its cause, or the *Noumenon*; to Grove, who, though he sees "no reason to divest universally diffused matter of the *functions* common to all matter," yet uses the term *Forces* where his critics, "who do not attach to the word any idea of a *specific action*," say Force, from those days to this, nothing has proved competent to stem the tide of brutal Materialism. Gravitation is the sole cause, the acting God, and Matter is its prophet, said the men of Science only a few years ago.

They have changed their views several times since then. But do the men of Science understand the innermost thought of Newton, one of the most spiritual-minded and religious men of his day, any better now than they did then? It is certainly to be doubted. Newton is credited with having given the death-blow to the Elemental Vortices of Descartes—the idea of Anaxagoras, resurrected, by the bye—though the last modern "vortical atoms" of Sir William Thomson do not, in truth, differ much from the former. Nevertheless, when his disciple Forbes wrote in the Preface to the chief work of his master a sentence declaring that "attraction was the cause of the system," Newton was the first to solemnly protest. That which in the mind of the great mathematician assumed the shadowy, but firmly rooted image of God, as the *Noumenon* of all,<sup>1</sup> was called more philosophically by ancient and modern Philosophers and Occultists—"Gods," or the *creative* fashioning Powers. The modes of expression may have been different, and the ideas more or less philosophically enunciated by all sacred and profane Antiquity, but the fundamental thought was the same.<sup>2</sup> For Pythagoras the Forces were Spiritual Entities, Gods, independent of planets and Matter as we see

<sup>1</sup> "Attraction," Le Couturier, a Materialist, writes, "has now become for the public that which it was for Newton himself—a simple word, an Idea" (*Panorama des Mondes*), since its cause is unknown. Herschel virtually says the same, when remarking, that whenever studying the motion of the heavenly bodies, and the phenomena of attraction, he feels penetrated at every moment with the idea of "the existence of causes that act for us under a veil, disguising their direct action" (*Musée des Sciences*, August, 1856).

<sup>2</sup> If we are taken to task for believing in operating "Gods" and "Spirits" while rejecting a personal God, we answer to the Theists and Monotheists: Admit that your Jehovah is one of the *Elohim*, and we are ready to recognize him. Make of him, as you do, the Infinite, the ONE and the Eternal God, and we will never accept him in this character. Of tribal Gods there were many, the One Universal Deity is a principle, an abstract Root-Idea, which has nought to do with the unclean



and know them on Earth, who are the rulers of the Sidereal Heaven. Plato represented the planets as moved by an *intrinsic* Rector, one with his dwelling, like "a boatman in his boat." As for Aristotle, he called those rulers "*immaterial substances*";<sup>1</sup> though as one who had never been initiated, he rejected the Gods as *Entities*.<sup>2</sup> But this did not prevent him from recognizing the fact that the stars and planets "were not inanimate masses but acting and living bodies indeed." As if sidereal spirits were the "diviner portions of their phenomena (*τὰ θεϊότερα τῶν φανερόν*)."<sup>3</sup>

If we look for corroboration in more modern and scientific times, we find Tycho Brahé recognizing in the stars a triple force, *divine, spiritual and vital*. Kepler, putting together the Pythagorean sentence, "the Sun, guardian of Jupiter," and the verses of David, "He placed his throne in the Sun," and "the Lord is the Sun," etc., said that he understood perfectly how the Pythagoreans could believe that all the Globes disseminated through Space were rational Intelligences (*facultates ratiocinativæ*), circulating round the Sun, "in which resides a pure spirit of fire; the source of the general harmony."<sup>4</sup>

When an occultist speaks of Fohat, the energizing and guiding Intelligence in the Universal Electric or *Vital Fluid*, he is laughed at. Withal, as now shown, the nature neither of electricity, nor of life, nor even of light, is to this day understood. The Occultist sees, in the manifestation of every force in Nature, the action of the quality, or the special characteristic of its *Noumenon*; which *Noumenon* is a distinct and intelligent Individuality *on the other side of the manifested mechanical Universe*. Now the Occultist does not deny—on the contrary he will support the view—that light, heat, electricity and so on are *affections*, not properties or qualities, of Matter. To put it more clearly: Matter is the condition, the necessary basis or vehicle, a *sine qua non*, for the manifestation of these Forces, or Agents, on this plane.

But in order to gain the point, the Occultists have to examine the credentials of the law of gravity, first of all, of "Gravitation, the King and Ruler

work of finite Form. We do not worship the Gods, we only honour Them, as beings superior to ourselves. In this we obey the Mosaic injunction, while Christians disobey their *Bible*—missionaries foremost of all. "Thou shalt not revile the Gods," says one of them—Jehovah—in *Exodus*, xxii, 28, but at the same time in verse 20 it is commanded "He that sacrificeth to any God, save unto the Lord only, he shall be utterly destroyed." Now in the *original texts* it is not "God" but Elohim—and we challenge contradiction—and Jehovah is one of the Elohim, as proved by his own words in *Genesis*, iii, 22, when "the Lord God said Behold the Man is become as one of us." Hence both those who worship and sacrifice to the Elohim, the Angels, and to Jehovah, and those who revile the Gods of their fellowmen, are far greater transgressors than the Occultists or than any Theosophist. Meanwhile many of the latter prefer believing in some one "Lord" or other, and are quite welcome to do as they like.

<sup>1</sup> To liken the "immaterial species to wooden iron," and to laugh at Spiller for referring to them as "incorporeal matter" does not solve the mystery (See *Concepts of Modern Physics*, p 165 *et infra*).

<sup>2</sup> See *Vossius*, Vol II, p 528

<sup>3</sup> *De Cælo*, I, 9

<sup>4</sup> *De Motibus Planetarum Harmonicis*, p 248

of Matter," under every form. To do so effectually, the hypothesis, in its earliest appearance, has to be recalled to mind. To begin with, is it Newton who was the first to discover it? The *Athenæum* of Jan. 26, 1867, has some curious information upon this subject. It says

Positive evidence can be adduced that Newton derived all his knowledge of Gravitation and its laws from Bæhme, with whom Gravitation or Attraction is the first property of Nature. For with him, his [Bæhme's] system shows us the inside of things, while modern physical science is content with looking at the outside

Then again :

The science of electricity, which was not yet in existence when he [Bæhme] wrote, is there anticipated [in his writings], and not only does Bæhme describe all the now known phenomena of that force, but he even gives us the origin, generation, and birth of electricity itself

Thus Newton, whose profound mind easily read between the lines, and fathomed the spiritual thought of the great Seer, in its mystic rendering, owes his great discovery to Jacob Bæhme, the nursling of the Genii, Nirmâna-kâyas who watched over and guided him, of whom the author of the article in question so truly remarks .

Every new scientific discovery goes to prove his profound and intuitive insight into the most secret workings of Nature

And having discovered gravity, Newton, in order to render possible the action of attraction in space, had, so to speak, to *annihilate* every physical obstacle capable of impeding its free action, Ether among others, though he had more than a presentiment of its existence. Advocating the corpuscular theory, he made an *absolute vacuum* between the heavenly bodies . . . Whatever may have been his suspicions and *inner* convictions about Ether; however many friends he may have unbosomed himself to—as in the case of his correspondence with Bentley—his teachings never showed that he had any such belief. If he was “persuaded that the power of attraction could not be exerted by matter across a vacuum,”<sup>1</sup> how is it that so late as 1860, French astronomers, Le Couturier, for instance, combated “the disastrous results of the theory of vacuum established by the great man”? Le Couturier says .

Il n'est plus possible aujourd'hui, de soutenir comme Newton, que les corps célestes se meuvent au milieu du vide immense des espaces. Parmi les conséquences de la théorie du vide établie par Newton, il ne reste plus debout que le mot “attraction”. Nous voyons venir le jour où le mot attraction disparaîtra du vocabulaire scientifique.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *World-Life*, Prof. Winchell, LL D., p. 50

<sup>2</sup> *Panorama des Mondes*, pp. 47 and 53. [It is not possible today to believe with Newton that the heavenly bodies move in a vast emptiness. Of the consequences of Newton's theory of a void, nothing remains but the word “attraction”. We shall yet see the day when the word attraction will disappear from the scientific vocabulary.]

Professor Winchell writes :

These passages [Letter to Bentley] show what were his views respecting the nature of the interplanetary medium of communication. Though declaring that "the heavens are void of sensible matter," he elsewhere excepted "perhaps some very thin vapours, steams and effluvia, arising from the atmospheres of the earth, planets and comets, and from such an exceedingly rare ethereal medium as we have elsewhere described."<sup>1</sup>

This only shows that even such great men as Newton have not always the courage of their opinions. Dr. T. S. Hunt

Called attention to some long-neglected passages in Newton's works, from which it appears that a belief in such universal, intercosmical medium gradually took root in his mind.<sup>2</sup>

But such attention was never called to the said passages before Nov. 28, 1881, when Dr. Hunt read his *Celestial Chemistry, from the time of Newton*. As Le Couturier says :

Till then the idea was universal, even among the men of Science, that Newton had, while advocating the corpuscular theory, preached a void.

The passages had been "long neglected," no doubt because they contradicted and clashed with the preconceived pet theories of the day, till finally the undulatory theory imperiously required the presence of an "ether-eal medium" to explain it. This is the whole secret.

Anyhow, it is from this theory of Newton of a universal void, taught, if not believed in by himself, that dates the immense scorn now shown by modern Physics for ancient. The old sages had maintained that "Nature abhorred a vacuum," and the greatest mathematicians of the world—read of the Western races—had discovered the antiquated "fallacy" and exposed it. And now modern Science, however ungracefully, vindicates Archaic Knowledge, and has, moreover, to vindicate Newton's character and powers of observation at this late hour, after having neglected, for one century and a half, to pay any attention to such very important passages—perchance, because it was wiser not to attract any notice to them. Better late than never !

And now Father Æther is re-welcomed with open arms and wedded to gravitation, linked to it for weal or woe, until the day when it, or both, shall be replaced by something else. Three hundred years ago it was *plenum* everywhere, then it became one dismal *vacuity* ; later still the sidereal ocean-beds, dried up by Science, rolled onward once more their ethereal waves. *Recede ut procedas* [step back to make a better jump forward] must become the motto of exact Science—"exact," chiefly, in finding itself inexact every leap-year.

<sup>1</sup> Newton, *Optics*, III, Query 28, 1704, quoted in *World-Life*, p. 50

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 49-50

But we will not quarrel with the great men. They had to go back to the earliest " Gods of Pythagoras and old Kanâda " for the very back-bone and marrow of their correlations and " newest " discoveries, and this may well afford good hope to the Occultists for their minor Gods. For we believe in Le Couturier's prophecy about gravitation. We know the day is approaching when an *absolute reform* will be demanded in the present modes of Science by the Scientists themselves, as was done by Sir William Grove, FRS Till that day there is nothing to be done For if gravitation were dethroned to-morrow, the Scientists would discover some other new mode of mechanical motion the day after.<sup>1</sup> Rough and up-hill is the path of true Science, and its days are full of vexation of spirit But in the face of its " thousand " contradictory hypotheses offered as explanations of physical phenomena, there has been no better hypothesis than " motion "—however paradoxically interpreted by Materialism. As may be found in the first pages of this Volume, Occultists have nothing to say against *Motion*,<sup>2</sup> the GREAT BREATH of Mr. Herbert Spencer's " Unknowable." But, believing that everything on Earth is the *shadow* of something in *Space*, they believe in *smaller* " Breaths," which, living, intelligent and independent of all but Law, blow in every direction during manvantaric periods. These Science will reject. But whatever may be made to replace attraction, *alias* gravitation, the result will be the same Science will be as far then from the solution of its difficulties as it is now, unless it comes to some compromise with Occultism, and even with Alchemy—a supposition which will be regarded as an impertinence, but remains, nevertheless, a fact. As Faye says :

Il manque quelque chose aux géologues pour faire la géologie de la Lune, c'est d'être astronomes À la vérité il manque aussi quelque chose aux astronomes pour aborder avec fruit cette étude, c'est d'être géologues

But he might have added, with still more pointedness :

Ce qui manque à tous les deux, c'est l'intuition du mystique <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> When read in a fair and unprejudiced spirit, Sir Isaac Newton's works are an ever ready witness to show how he must have hesitated between gravitation and attraction, impulse, and some other *unknown cause*, to explain the regular course of the planetary motion But see his *Treatise on Colour* (Vol III, Question 31). We are told by Herschel that Newton left with his successors the duty of drawing all the scientific conclusions from his discovery How modern Science has abused the privilege of building its newest theories upon the law of gravitation, may be realized when one remembers how profoundly religious was that great man

<sup>2</sup> The materialistic notion that because, in Physics, real or sensible motion is impossible in pure space or vacuum, therefore, the eternal MOTION of and in Cosmos—regarded as infinite Space—is a *fiction*, only shows once more that such expressions of Eastern metaphysics as " pure Space," " pure Being," the " Absolute," etc., have never been understood in the West

<sup>3</sup> From Winchell, *World-Life*, p 379 [Geologists must become astronomers if they are to understand the geology of the moon And indeed, astronomers, if they are to pursue this study profitably, must become geologists What both of them lack, is the intuition of the Mystic ]

Let us remember Sir William Grove's wise "concluding remarks," on the ultimate structure of Matter, or the minutiae of molecular actions, which, he thought, man will never know.

Much harm has already been done by attempting hypothetically to dissect matter and to discuss the shapes, sizes, and numbers of atoms, and their atmospheres of heat, ether, or electricity. Whether the regarding electricity, light, magnetism, etc., as simply motions of ordinary matter be or be not admissible, certain it is, that all past theories have resolved, and all existing theories do resolve, the action of these forces into motion. Whether it be that, on account of our familiarity with motion, we refer other affections to it, as to a language which is most easily construed, and most capable of explaining them, or whether it be that it is in reality the only mode in which our minds, as contra-distinguished from our senses, are able to conceive material agencies, certain it is that since the period at which the mystic notions of spiritual or preternatural powers were applied to account for physical phenomena, all hypotheses framed to explain them have resolved them into motion.

And then the learned gentleman states a purely Occult tenet.

The term perpetual motion, which I have not infrequently employed in these pages, is itself equivocal. If the doctrines here advanced be well founded, all motion is, in one sense, perpetual. In masses whose motion is stopped by mutual concussion, heat or motion of the particles is generated, and thus the motion continues, so that if we could venture to extend such thoughts to the universe, we should assume the same amount of motion affecting the same amount of matter for ever.

[This is precisely what Occultism maintains, and on the same principle, that :

Where force is made to oppose force, and produce static equilibrium, the balance of pre-existing equilibrium is affected, and fresh motion is started equivalent to that which is withdrawn into a state of abeyance.<sup>1</sup>

This process finds intervals in the Pralaya, but is eternal and ceaseless as the "Breath," even when the manifested Kosmos rests.]

Thus, supposing attraction or gravitation should be given up in favour of the Sun being a *huge magnet*—a theory already accepted by some Physicists—a magnet that acts on the planets as attraction is now supposed to do, whereto, or how much farther, would it lead the Astronomers from where they are now? Not an inch farther. Kepler came to this "curious hypothesis" nearly 300 years ago. He had not discovered the theory of attraction and repulsion in Kosmos, for it was known from the days of Empedocles, by whom the two opposite forces were called "love" and "hate"—words implying the same idea. But Kepler gave a pretty fair description of cosmic magnetism. That such magnetism exists in Nature, is as certain as that gravitation does not; not at any rate, in the way in which it is taught by Science, which has never taken into consideration the different modes in which the dual

<sup>1</sup> *The Correlation of Physical Forces*, pp. 170-3

Force, that Occultism calls attraction and repulsion, may act within our Solar System, the Earth's atmosphere and *beyond* in the Kosmos.

[As the great Humboldt writes ·

Trans-solar space has not hitherto shown any phenomenon analogous to our solar system. It is a peculiarity of our system that matter should have condensed within it in nebulous rings, the nuclei of which condense into earths and moons. I say again, heretofore, *nothing of the kind has ever been observed beyond our planetary system*<sup>1</sup>

True, that since 1860 the Nebular Theory has sprung up, and being better known, a few identical phenomena were supposed to be observed beyond the Solar System. Yet the great man is quite right, and no *earths* or *moons* can be found, *except in appearance*, beyond, or of the same order of Matter as found in our System. Such is the Occult Teaching.]

This was proven by Newton himself, for there are many phenomena in our Solar System, which he confessed his inability to explain by the law of gravitation; "such were the uniformity in the directions of planetary movements, the nearly circular forms of the orbits, and their remarkable conformity to one plane."<sup>2</sup> And if there is one single exception, then the law of gravitation has no right to be referred to as a universal law. "These adjustments," we are told,<sup>3</sup> "Newton, in his general Scholium, pronounces to be 'the work of an intelligent and all-powerful Being'." Intelligent that "Being" may be, as to "all-powerful," there would be every reason to doubt the claim. A poor "God" he, who would work upon minor details and leave the most important to secondary forces! The poverty of this argument and logic is surpassed only by that of Laplace, who, seeking very correctly to substitute Motion for Newton's "all-powerful Being," and ignorant of the true nature of that Eternal Motion, saw in it a blind physical law. "Might not those arrangements be an effect of the laws of motion?" he asks, forgetting, as do all our modern Scientists, that this *law* and this motion are a vicious circle, so long as the *nature of both* remains unexplained. His famous answer to Napoleon: "*Dieu est devenu une hypothèse inutile*," [God has become an unnecessary hypothesis] could be correctly made only by one who adhered to the philosophy of the Vedântins. It becomes a pure fallacy, if we exclude the interference of operating, intelligent, powerful (never "all-powerful") Beings, who are called "Gods."

But, we would ask the critics of the mediæval Astronomers, why should Kepler be denounced as *most unscientific*, for offering just the same solution

<sup>1</sup> See *Revue Germanique* of the 31st Dec 1860, art, "Lettres et Conversations d'Alexandre Humboldt"

<sup>2</sup> Winchell, *World-Life*, p 607

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

as did Newton, only showing himself more sincere, more consistent and even more logical? Where may be the difference between Newton's "all-powerful Being" and Kepler's *Rectores*, his *Sidereal* and *Cosmic Forces*, or *Angels*? Kepler again is criticized for his "curious hypothesis which made use of a vortical movement within the solar system," for his theories in general, and for favouring Empedocles' idea of attraction and repulsion and "solar magnetism" in particular. Yet several modern men of Science, as will be shown—R. Hunt, if Metcalfe is to be excluded, Dr. B. W. Richardson, etc.—very strongly favour the same idea. He is half excused, however, on the plea that.

To the time of Kepler no interaction between masses of matter had been distinctly recognized which was generically different from magnetism.<sup>1</sup>

Is it *distinctly* recognized now? Does Professor Winchell claim for Science any serious knowledge whatever of the natures of either electricity or magnetism—except that *both seem to be the effects of some result arising from an undetermined cause*.

The ideas of Kepler, when their theological tendencies are weeded out, are purely Occult. He saw that.

(I) The Sun is a great Magnet.<sup>2</sup> This is what some eminent modern Scientists and also the Occultists believe in.

(II) The Solar substance is immaterial.<sup>3</sup> In the sense, of course, of Matter existing in states unknown to Science.

(III) For the constant motion and restoration of the Sun's energy and planetary motion, he provided the perpetual care of a Spirit, or Spirits. The whole of Antiquity believed in this idea. The Occultists do not use the word Spirit, but say *Creative Forces*, which they *endow with intelligence*. But we may call them Spirits also. [We shall be taken to task for contradiction. It will be said that while we deny *God*, we admit *Souls* and *operative Spirits*, and quote from bigoted Roman Catholic writers in support of our argument. To this we reply. We deny the *anthropomorphic* God of the Monotheists, but never the Divine Principle in Nature. We combat Protestants and Roman Catholics on a number of dogmatic theological beliefs of human and sectarian origin. We agree with them in their belief in Spirits and *intelligent* operative Powers, though we do not worship "Angels" as the Roman Latinists do.]

This theory is tabooed a great deal more on account of the "Spirit" that is given room in it, than of anything else. Herschel, the elder, believed in it likewise, and so do several modern Scientists. Nevertheless Professor Winchell declares that "a hypothesis more fanciful, and less in accord with the

<sup>1</sup> Winchell, *World-Life*, p. 553

<sup>2</sup> But see *Astronomie du Moyen Age*, by Delambre

<sup>3</sup> See *Isis Unveiled*, I, pp. 270-1

requirements of physical principles, has not been offered in ancient or modern times.”<sup>1</sup>

The same was said, once upon a time, of the universal Ether, and now it is not only accepted perforce, but is advocated as *the only possible theory* to explain certain mysteries.

Grove's ideas, when he first enunciated them in London about 1840, were denounced as *unscientific*, nevertheless, his views on the Correlation of Forces are now universally accepted. It would, very likely, require one more conversant with Science than is the writer, to combat with any success some of the now prevailing ideas about gravitation and other similar “solutions” of Cosmic Mysteries. But, let us recall a few objections that came from recognized men of Science, from Astronomers and Physicists of eminence, who rejected the theory of rotation, as well as that of gravitation. Thus one reads in the *French Encyclopædia* that “Science agrees, in the face of all its representatives, that it is *impossible* to explain the *physical* origin of the rotatory motion of the solar system”

If the question is asked: “What causes rotation?” We are answered: “It is the centrifugal force” “And this force, what is it that produces it?” “The force of rotation,” is the grave answer.” It will be well, perhaps, to examine both these theories as being directly or indirectly connected.

<sup>1</sup> *World-Life*, p. 554

<sup>2</sup> Godefroy, *Cosmogonie de la Révélation*



## SECTION 4

### THE THEORIES OF ROTATION IN SCIENCE

CONSIDERING that "final cause is pronounced a chimera, and the First Great Cause is remanded to the sphere of the Unknown," as a reverend gentleman justly complains, the number of hypotheses put forward, a nebula of them, is most remarkable. The profane student is perplexed, and does not know in which of the theories of exact Science he has to believe. We give below hypotheses enough for every taste and power of brain. They are all extracted from a number of scientific volumes.

#### CURRENT HYPOTHESES EXPLAINING THE ORIGIN OF ROTATION

Rotation has originated .

(a) By the collision of nebular masses wandering aimlessly in Space, or by attraction, "in cases where no actual impact takes place."

(b) By the tangential action of currents of nebulous matter (in the case of an amorphous nebula) descending from higher to lower levels,<sup>1</sup> or simply by the action of the central gravity of the mass.<sup>2</sup>

"It is a . . . fundamental principle in physics that no rotation could be generated in such a mass by the action of its own parts. As well attempt to change the course of a steamer by pulling at the deck railing," remarks on this Prof. Winchell in *World-Life*.<sup>3</sup>

#### HYPOTHESES OF THE ORIGIN OF PLANETS AND COMETS

(a) We owe the birth of the planets (1) to an explosion of the Sun—a parturition of its central mass,<sup>1</sup> or (2) to some kind of disruption of the nebular rings.

<sup>1</sup> The terms "high" and "low" being only relative to the position of the observer in Space, any use of those terms tending to convey the impression that they stand for abstract realities, is necessarily fallacious.

<sup>2</sup> Jacob Ennis, *The Origin of the Stars*

<sup>3</sup> P. 99, footnote.

<sup>4</sup> If such is the case, how does Science explain the comparatively small size of the planets nearest the Sun? The theory of meteoric aggregation is only a step farther from truth than the nebular conception, and has not even the quality of the latter—its metaphysical element.

(b) "The comets are strangers to the planetary system."<sup>1</sup> "The comets are undeniably generated in our solar system."<sup>2</sup>

(c) The "fixed stars are motionless," says one authority. "All the stars are actually in motion," answers another authority." "Undoubtedly every star is in motion"<sup>3</sup>

(d) "For over 350,000,000 years, the slow and majestic movement of the sun around its axis has never for a moment ceased."<sup>4</sup>

(e) "Maedler believes that . . . our sun has Alcyone in the Pleiades for the centre of its orbit, and consumes 180,000,000 of years in completing a single revolution."<sup>5</sup>

(f) "The sun has existed no more than 15,000,000 of years, and will emit heat for no longer than 10,000,000 years more."<sup>6</sup>

A few years ago this eminent Scientist was telling the world that the time required for the Earth to cool from incipient incrustation to its present state, could not exceed 80,000,000 years.<sup>7</sup> If the encrusted age of the world is only 40,000,000, or half the duration once allowed, and the Sun's age is only 15,000,000, have we to understand that the Earth was at one time independent of the Sun?

Since the ages of the Sun, of the planets, and of the Earth, as they are stated in the various scientific hypotheses of the Astronomers and Physicists, are given elsewhere below, we have said enough to show the disagreement between the ministers of modern Science. Whether we accept the *fifteen* million years of Sir William Thomson or the *thousand* millions of Prof T H Huxley, for the rotational evolution of our Solar System, it will always come to this. that by accepting *self-generated* rotation for the heavenly bodies composed of *inert* Matter and yet moved by *their own internal motion*, for millions of years, this teaching of Science amounts to:

(a) An evident denial of that fundamental physical law, which states that "a body in motion tends constantly to inertia, i.e., to continue in the same state of motion or rest, unless it is stimulated into further action by a superior active force."

(b) An original impulse, which culminates in an unalterable motion, within a *resisting* Ether that Newton had declared *incompatible with that motion*.

<sup>1</sup> Laplace, *Système du Monde*, p 414, ed 1824

<sup>2</sup> Faye, *Comptes Rendus*, Tome xc, pp 640-2

<sup>3</sup> *Panorama des Mondes*, Le Couturier.

<sup>4</sup> Wolf

<sup>5</sup> Winchell, *World-Life*, p 140

<sup>6</sup> Sir William Thomson's lecture on "The latent dynamical theory regarding the probable origin, total amount of heat, and duration of the Sun," 1887

<sup>7</sup> Thomson and Tait, *Natural Philosophy* And even on these figures Bischof disagrees with Thomson, and calculates that 350,000,000 years would be required for the Earth to cool from a temperature of 20,000° to 200° centigrade This is, also, the opinion of Helmholtz

(c) Universal gravity, which, we are taught, always tends to a centre in *rectilinear* descent—*alone* the cause of the revolution of the whole Solar System, which is performing an eternal *double* gyration, each body around its axis and orbit. Another occasional version is :

(d) A magnet in the Sun, or, that the said revolution is due to a magnetic force, which acts, just as gravitation does, in a straight line, and varies inversely as the square of the distance <sup>1</sup>

(e) The whole acting under *invariable* and changeless laws, which are, nevertheless, often shown variable, as during some well-known freaks of planets and other bodies, as also when the comets approach or recede from the Sun.

(f) A MOTOR FORCE always proportionate to the mass it is acting upon ; but *independent* of the specific nature of that mass, to which it is proportionate, which amounts to saying, as Le Couturier does, that :

Without that force independent of, and of quite another nature than, the said mass, the latter, were it as huge as Saturn, or as tiny as Ceres, would always fall with the same rapidity <sup>2</sup>

A mass, furthermore, which *derives* its weight from the body on which it weighs.

Thus neither Laplace's perceptions of a solar atmospheric fluid, which would extend beyond the orbits of the planets, nor Le Couturier's electricity, nor Foucault's heat,<sup>3</sup> nor this, nor the other, can ever help any of the numerous hypotheses about the origin and *permanency* of rotation to escape from this squirrel's wheel, any more than can the theory of gravity itself. This mystery is the Procrustean bed of Physical Science. If Matter is passive, as we are now taught, the simplest movement cannot be said to be an essential property of Matter—the latter being considered simply as an inert mass. How, then, can such a complicated movement, compound and multiple, harmonious and equilibrated, lasting in the eternities for millions and millions of years, be attributed simply to its own inherent Force, unless the latter is an *Intelligence*? A *physical will* is something new—a conception that the Ancients would never have entertained, indeed ! [For over a century all distinction between body and force has been made away with. "Force is but the property of a body in motion," say the Physicists, "life—the property of our animal organs—is but the result of their molecular arrangements," answer the Physiologists As Littré teaches :

In the bosom of that aggregate which is named planet, are developed all the forces immanent in matter . . . i.e., that matter possesses *in itself and through itself* the forces that are proper to it . . . and which are *primary*, not *secondary*,

<sup>1</sup> Coulomb's Law

<sup>2</sup> *Musée des Sciences*, 15 August, 1857

<sup>3</sup> *Panorama des Mondes*, p. 55.

Such forces are the property of weight, the property of electricity, of terrestrial magnetism, the property of life . . . Every planet can develop life . . . as earth, for instance, which had not always mankind on it, and now bears (*produit*) men<sup>1</sup>]

An Astronomer says :

We talk of the weight of the heavenly bodies, but since it is recognized that weight decreases in proportion to the distance from that centre, it becomes evident that, at a certain distance, that weight must be forcibly reduced to zero. Were there any *attraction* there would be equilibrium . . . And since the modern school recognizes neither a *beneath* nor an *above* in universal space, it is not clear what should cause the earth to fall, were there even no gravitation, nor attraction.<sup>2</sup>

Methinks the Count de Maistre was right in solving the question in his own theological way. He cut the Gordian knot by saying : "The planets rotate because they are made to rotate . . . and the modern physical system of the universe is a physical impossibility."<sup>3</sup> For did not Herschel say the same thing when he remarked that there is a *Will* needed to impart a circular motion, and *another Will* to restrain it?<sup>4</sup> This shows and explains how a *retarded* planet is cunning enough to calculate its time so well as to hit off its arrival at the fixed minute. For, if Science sometimes succeeds, with great ingenuity, in explaining some of such stoppages, retrograde motions, angles outside the orbits, etc., by appearances resulting from the inequality of their progress and ours in the course of our mutual and respective orbits, we still know that there are others, and "very real and considerable deviations," according to Herschel, "which cannot be explained except by the mutual and irregular action of those planets and by the perturbing influence of the sun."

We understand, however, that there are, besides those little and accidental perturbations, continuous perturbations called "secular"—because of the extreme slowness with which the irregularity increases and affects the relations of the elliptic movement—and that these perturbations *can be corrected*. From Newton, who found that this world needed *repairing* very often, down to Reynaud, all say the same. In his *Terre et Ciel* the latter says :

The orbits described by the planets are far from immutable, and are, on the contrary, subject to a perpetual mutation in their position and form.<sup>5</sup>

Proving gravitation and the peripatetic *laws* to be as negligent as they are quick to repair their mistakes. The charge as it stands seems to be that :

These orbits are alternately widening and narrowing, their great axis lengthens and diminishes, or oscillates at the same time from right to left around the sun, the plane itself, in which they are situated, raising and lowering itself periodically while pivoting around itself with a kind of tremor.

<sup>1</sup> *Revue des Deux Mondes*, July 15, 1860.

<sup>2</sup> *Cosmographie*.

<sup>3</sup> *Soirées*.

<sup>4</sup> *Discours*, p. 165.

<sup>5</sup> P. 28

To this, De Mirville, who believes in *intelligent* "workmen" invisibly ruling the Solar System—as we do—observes very wittily.

*Voilà, certes, a voyage which has little in it of mechanical precision [rigueur], at the utmost, one could compare it to a steamer, pulled to and fro and tossed on the waves, retarded or accelerated, all and each of which impediments might put off its arrival indefinitely, were there not the intelligence of a pilot and engineers to catch up the time lost, and to repair the damages*<sup>1</sup>

The law of gravity, however, seems to be becoming an *obsolete* law in starry heaven. At any rate those long-haired sidereal *Radicals*, called comets, appear to be very poor respecters of the majesty of that law, and to beard it quite impudently. Nevertheless, and though presenting in nearly every respect "phenomena not yet fully understood," comets and meteors are credited by the believers in Modern Science with obeying the same laws and consisting of the same Matter, "as the suns, stars and nebulæ," and even "the earth and its inhabitants."<sup>2</sup>

This is what one might call taking things on trust, aye, even to *blind faith*. But exact Science is not to be questioned, and he who rejects the hypotheses imagined by her students—gravitation, for instance—would be regarded as an ignorant fool for his pains, yet we are told by the just cited author a queer legend from the scientific annals.

The comet of 1811 had a tail 120 millions of miles in length and 15 millions of miles in diameter at the widest part, while the diameter of the nucleus was about 127,300 miles, or more than ten times that of the earth

He tells us that:

In order that bodies of this magnitude, passing near the earth, should not affect its motion or change the length of the year by even a single second, their actual substance must be inconceivably rare

It must be so indeed, yet

The extreme tenuity of a comet's mass is also proved by the phenomenon of the tail, which, as the comet approaches the sun, is thrown out sometimes to a length of 90 millions of miles in a few hours. And what is remarkable, this tail is thrown out against the force of gravity by some repulsive force, probably electrical, so that it always points away from the sun [1 1 1]. And yet, thin as the matter of comets must be, it obeys the common law of gravity [1 2], and whether the comet revolves in an orbit within that of the outer planets, or shoots off into the abysses of space and returns only after hundreds of years, its path is, at each instant, regulated by the same force as that which causes an apple to fall to the ground<sup>3</sup>

Science is like Cæsar's wife, and must not be suspected—this is evident. But it can be respectfully criticized, nevertheless, and at all events, it may be reminded that the "apple" is a dangerous fruit. For the second time in the

<sup>1</sup> *Des Esprits*, Tome iv, pp 155-6, Deuxième Mémoire, III

<sup>2</sup> *Lainq's Modern Science and Modern Thought*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p 17.

history of mankind, it may become the cause of the FALL—this time, of “exact” Science. A comet whose tail defies the law of gravity right in the Sun’s face can hardly be credited with obeying that law

In a series of scientific works on Astronomy and the Nebular Theory, written between 1865 and 1866, the present writer, a poor tyro in Science, has counted, in a few hours, no less than *thirty-nine contradictory hypotheses* offered as explanations for the self-generated, primitive rotatory motion of the heavenly bodies. The writer is no Astronomer, no Mathematician, no Scientist; but she was obliged to examine these errors in defence of Occultism in general, and what is still more important, in order to support the Occult Teachings concerning Astronomy and Cosmology. Occultists were threatened with terrible penalties for questioning scientific truths. But now they feel braver, Science is less secure in its “impregnable” position than they were led to expect, and many of its strongholds are built on very shifting sands.

Thus, even this poor and unscientific examination of it has been useful, and it has certainly been very instructive. We have learned a good many things, in fact, having especially studied with particular care those astronomical data that would be the most likely to clash with our heterodox and “superstitious” beliefs

Thus, for instance, we have found there, concerning gravitation, the axial and orbital motions, that synchronous movement having been once overcome, in the early stage, this was enough to originate a rotatory motion till the end of Manvantara. We have also come to know, in all the aforesaid combinations of possibilities with regard to incipient rotation, most complicated in every case, some of the causes to *which it may have been due*, as well as some others to which it *ought and should* have been due, but, in some way or other, was not. Among other things, we are informed that *incipient rotation may be provoked with equal ease in a mass in igneous fusion*, and in one that is characterized by *glacial opacity*.<sup>1</sup> That gravitation is a law which *nothing can overcome*, but which is, nevertheless, overcome, in and out of season, by the most ordinary celestial or terrestrial bodies—the tails of impudent comets, for instance. That we owe the universe to the holy Creative Trinity, called *Inert Matter*, *Senseless Force* and *Blind Chance*. Of the real essence and nature of any of these three, Science knows nothing, but this is a trifling detail. Ergo, we are told that, when a mass of cosmic or nebular Matter—whose nature is entirely *unknown*, and which may be in a state of fusion (Laplace), or dark and cold (Thomson), for “this intervention of heat is itself a pure hypothesis” (Faye)—decides to exhibit its mechanical energy

<sup>1</sup> “Heaven and Earth”

under the form of rotation, it acts in this wise. It (the mass) either bursts into spontaneous conflagration, or it remains inert, tenebrous, and frigid, both states being equally capable of sending it, without *any adequate cause*, spinning through Space for millions of years. Its movements may be retrograde, or they may be direct, about a hundred various reasons being offered for both motions, in about as many hypotheses; anyhow, it joins the maze of stars, whose origin belongs to the same miraculous and spontaneous order—for:

The nebular theory "*does not profess to discover the ORIGIN of things, but only a stadium in material history*"<sup>1</sup>

Those millions of suns, planets, and satellites, composed of inert matter, will whirl on in most impressive and majestic symmetry round the firmament, moved and guided only, notwithstanding their inertia, "by their own internal motion."

Shall we wonder, after this, if learned Mystics, pious Roman Catholics, and even such learned Astronomers as were Chaubard and Godefroy,<sup>2</sup> have preferred the *Kabalah* and the ancient systems to the modern dreary and contradictory exposition of the Universe? The *Zohar* makes a distinction, at any rate, between "the *Hajaschar* [the 'Light Forces'], the *Hachoser* ['Reflected Lights'], and the simple *phenomenal exteriorization* of their spiritual types."<sup>3</sup>

The question of "gravity" may now be dismissed, and other hypotheses examined. That Physical Science knows nothing of "Forces" is clear. We may close the argument, however, by calling to our help one more man of Science—Professor Jaumes, Member of the Academy of Medicine at Montpellier. Says this learned man, speaking of Forces:

A cause is that which is essentially acting in the genealogy of phenomena, in every production as in every modification. I said that activity (or force) was invisible. . . . To suppose it corporeal and *residing in the properties of matter* would be a gratuitous hypothesis. . . . To reduce all the causes to God, . . . would amount to embarrassing oneself with a hypothesis hostile to many verities. But to speak of a *plurality of forces* proceeding from the Deity and possessing inherent powers of their own, is not unreasonable, . . . and I am disposed to admit phenomena produced by intermediate agents called Forces of Secondary Agents. The *distinction* of Forces is the principle of the division of Sciences, so many real and separate Forces, so many mother-Sciences. No; Forces are not suppositions and abstractions, but realities, and the only acting realities whose attributes can be determined with the help of direct observation and induction.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Winchell, *World-Life*, p. 196.

<sup>2</sup> *L'Univers expliqué par la Révélation, and Cosmogonie de la Révélation*. But see De Mirville's *Deuxième Mémoire*. The author, a terrible enemy of Occultism, was yet one who wrote great truths.

<sup>3</sup> See *Kabbala Denudata*, II, p. 67.

<sup>4</sup> "Sur la Distinction des Forces," published in the *Mémoires de l'Académie des Sciences de Montpellier*, Vol. II, fasc. 1, 1854.

## SECTION 5

### THE MASKS OF SCIENCE

#### PHYSICS OR METAPHYSICS ?

IF there is anything like progress on earth, Science will some day have to give up, *nolens volens*, such monstrous ideas as her physical, self-guiding *laws*, void of Soul and Spirit, and will then have to turn to the Occult Teachings. It has already done so, however altered may be the title-pages and revised editions of the Scientific Catechism. It is now over half a century since, in comparing modern with ancient thought, it was found that, however different our Philosophy may appear from that of our ancestors, it is, nevertheless, composed only of *additions* and *subtractions* taken from the old Philosophy and *transmitted drop by drop through the filter of antecedents*.

This fact was well known to Faraday, and to other eminent men of Science. Atoms, Ether, Evolution itself—all come to modern Science from ancient notions, all are based on the conceptions of the archaic nations. “Conceptions” for the profane, under the shape of allegories, plain truths taught during the Initiations to the Elect, which truths have been partially divulged through Greek writers and have descended to us. This does not mean that Occultism has ever had the same views on Matter, Atoms and Ether as may be found in the exotericism of the classical Greek writers. Yet, if we may believe Mr. John Tyndall, even Faraday was an Aristotelean, and was more an Agnostic than a Materialist. In his *Faraday, as a Discoverer*,<sup>1</sup> the author shows the great Physicist using “old reflections of Aristotle” which are “concisely found in some of his works.” Faraday, Boscovitch, and all others, however, who see, in the Atoms and molecules, “centres of force,” and in the corresponding *element, Force*, an ENTITY BY ITSELF, are far nearer the truth, perchance, than those who, denouncing them, denounce at the same time the “old corpuscular Pythagorean theory”—one, by the way, which never passed to posterity as the great Philosopher *really* taught it—on the



ground of its "delusion that the conceptual elements of matter can be grasped as separate and real entities."

The chief and most fatal mistake and fallacy made by Science, in the view of the Occultists, lies in the idea of the possibility of such a thing existing in Nature as inorganic, or dead Matter. Is anything *dead* or *inorganic* which is capable of transformation or change?—Occultism asks. And is there anything under the sun which remains immutable or changeless?

[For a thing to be *dead* implies that it had been at some time *living*. When, at what period of cosmogony? Occultism says that in all cases Matter is the most active, when it appears inert. A wooden or a stone block is motionless and impenetrable to all intents and purposes. Nevertheless, and *de facto*, its particles are in ceaseless eternal vibration which is so rapid that to the physical eye the body seems absolutely devoid of motion, and the spatial distance between those particles in their vibratory motion is—considered from another plane of being and perception—as great as that which separates snow flakes or drops of rain. But to Physical Science this will be an absurdity.]

This fallacy is nowhere better illustrated than in the scientific work of a German *savant*, Professor Philip Spiller. In this cosmological treatise, the author attempts to prove that:

No material constituent of a body, no atom, is in itself originally endowed with force, but that every such atom is absolutely dead, and without any inherent power to act at a distance.<sup>1</sup>

This statement, however, does not prevent Spiller from enunciating an Occult doctrine and principle. He asserts *the independent substantiality of Force*, and shows it as an "incorporeal stuff" (*unkörperlicher Stoff*) or Substance. Now *Substance* is not *Matter* in Metaphysics, and for argument's sake it may be granted that it is a wrong expression to use. But this is due to the poverty of European languages, and especially to the paucity of scientific terms. Then this "stuff" is identified and connected by Spiller with the Æther. Expressed in Occult language it might be said with more correctness that this "Force-Substance" is the ever-active phenomenal *positive* Ether—*Prakriti*, while the omnipresent all-pervading Æther is the *Noumenon* of the former, the substratum of all, or *Âkâsha*. Nevertheless, Stallo falls foul of Spiller, as he does of the Materialists. He is accused of "utter disregard of the fundamental correlation of Force and Matter," of neither of which Science knows anything certain. For this "hypostasized half-concept" is, in the view of all other Physicists, not only *imponderable*, but destitute of

<sup>1</sup> *Der Weltæther als Kosmische Kraft*, p. 4

cohesive, chemical, thermal, electric, and magnetic forces, of all of which forces—according to Occultism—Æther is the Source and Cause.

Therefore Spiller, with all his mistakes, exhibits more intuition than does any other modern Scientist, with the exception, perhaps, of Dr Richardson, the theorist on “Nerve-Force,” or Nervous Ether, also on “Sun-Force and Earth-Force”<sup>1</sup> For ÆTHER, in Esotericism, is the very quintessence of all possible energy, and it is certainly to this Universal Agent (composed of many agents) that are due all the manifestations of energy in the material, psychic and spiritual worlds

What, in fact, are electricity and light? How can Science know that one is a fluid and the other a “mode of motion”? Why is no reason given why a difference should be made between them, since both are considered as force-correlations? Electricity is a fluid, we are told, immaterial and non-molecular—though Helmholtz thinks otherwise—and the proof of it is that we can bottle it up, accumulate it and store it away. Then, it *must* be simply Matter, and no peculiar “fluid”. Nor is it only “a mode of motion,” for motion could hardly be stored in a Leyden jar. As for light, it is a still more extraordinary “mode of motion”, since, “marvellous as it may appear, light [also] can *actually be stored up for use*,” as was demonstrated by Grove nearly half a century ago.

Take an engraving which has been kept for some days in the dark, expose it to full sunshine—that is, insulate it for 15 minutes, lay it on sensitive paper in a dark place, and at the end of 24 hours it will have left an impression of itself on the sensitive paper, the whites coming out as blacks. There seems to be no limit for the reproduction of engravings.<sup>2</sup>

What is it that remains fixed, nailed, so to say, on the paper? It is a Force certainly that fixed the thing, but what is *that thing*, the residue of which remains on the paper?

Our learned men will get out of this by some scientific technicality, but what is it that is intercepted, so as to imprison a certain quantity of it on glass, paper, or wood? Is it “Motion” or is it “Force”? Or shall we be told that what remains behind is only the effect of the Force or Motion? Then what is this Force? Force or Energy is a quality, but every quality must belong to a something, or a somebody. In Physics, Force is defined as “that which changes or tends to change any physical relation between bodies, whether mechanical, thermal, chemical, electrical, magnetic, etc.” But it is not that Force or that Motion which remains behind on the paper, when the Force or Motion has ceased to act; and yet something,

<sup>1</sup> See *Popular Science Review*, Vol. v, pp. 329-34

<sup>2</sup> See *The Correlation of Physical Forces*, p. 110

which our physical senses cannot perceive, has been left there, to become a cause in its turn and to produce effects. What is it? It is not Matter, as defined by Science—*i.e.*, Matter in any of its known states. An Alchemist would say it was a spiritual secretion—and he would be laughed at. But yet, when the Physicist said that electricity, stored up, is a fluid, or that light fixed on paper is still sunlight—that was Science. [The newest authorities have, indeed, rejected these explanations as “exploded theories,” and have now deified “Motion” as their sole idol. But, surely, they and their idol will one day share the fate of their predecessors!] An experienced Occultist, one who has verified the whole series of *Nidânas*, of causes and effects, that finally project their last effect on to this our plane of manifestations, one who has traced Matter back to its Noumenon, holds the opinion that the explanation of the Physicist is like calling anger, or its effects—the exclamation provoked by it—a secretion or a fluid, and man, the cause of it, its *material* conductor. But, as Grove prophetically remarked, the day is fast approaching when it will be confessed that the Forces we know are but the phenomenal manifestations of Realities we know nothing about—but which *were known to the Ancients, and by them worshipped*.

He made one still more suggestive remark which ought to have become the motto of Science, but has not. Sir William Grove said that: “Science should have neither desires nor prejudices. Truth should be her sole aim.”

Meanwhile, in our days, Scientists are more self-opinionated and bigoted than even the Clergy. For they minister to, if they do not actually worship, “Force-Matter,” which is their *Unknown God*. And how unknown it is, may be inferred from the many confessions of the most eminent Physicists and Biologists, with Faraday at their head. Not only, said Sir William, could he never presume to pronounce whether Force was a property or function of Matter, but he actually did not know what was meant by the word *Matter*.

There was a time, he added, when he believed he knew something of Matter. But the more he lived, and the more carefully he studied it, the more he became convinced of *his utter ignorance of the nature of matter*.<sup>1</sup>

[This ominous confession was made, we believe, at a Scientific Congress at Swansea. Faraday held a similar opinion, however, as stated by Tyndall:

What do we know of the atom apart from its force? You imagine a nucleus which may be called *a* and surround it by forces which may be called *m*, to my mind the *a* or nucleus vanishes and the substance consists of the powers *m*. And, indeed, what notion can we form of the nucleus independent of its powers? What thought remains on which to hang the imagination of an *a* independent of the acknowledged forces?]

<sup>1</sup> See Buckwell's *Electric Science*.

The Occultists are often misunderstood because, for lack of better terms, they apply to the Essence of Force, *under certain aspects*, the descriptive epithet of *Substance*. Now the names for the varieties of "Substance" on different planes of perception and being are legion. Eastern Occultism has a special appellation for each kind; but Science—like England, in the recollection of a witty Frenchman, blessed with thirty-six religions and only one fish-sauce—has but one name for all, namely "Substance." Moreover, neither the orthodox Physicists nor their critics seem to be very certain of their premises, and are as apt to confuse the effects as they are the causes. It is incorrect, for instance, to say, as Stallo does, that "matter can no more be realized or conceived as mere positive spatial presence than as a concretion of forces," or that "force is nothing without mass, and mass is nothing without force"—for one is the Noumenon and the other the phenomenon. Again, Schelling, when saying that

It is a mere delusion of the phantasy that something, we know not what, remains after we have denuded an object of all the predicates belonging to it<sup>1</sup>

could never have applied the remark to the realm of transcendental Metaphysics. It is true that pure Force is *nothing* in the world of Physics; it is ALL in the domain of Spirit. Says Stallo:

If we reduce the mass upon which a given force, however small, acts to its limit zero—or, mathematically expressed, until it becomes infinitely small—the consequence is that the velocity of the resulting motion is infinitely great, and that the "thing" . . . is at any given moment neither here nor there, but everywhere—that there is no real presence, it is impossible, therefore, to construct matter by a synthesis of forces<sup>2</sup>

This may be true in the phenomenal world, inasmuch as the illusive reflection of the *One Reality* of the supersensual world may appear true to the dwarfed conception of a Materialist. It is absolutely incorrect when the argument is applied to things in what the Kabalists call the supermundane spheres. Inertia, so-called, is Force, according to Newton,<sup>3</sup> and for the student of Esoteric Sciences the greatest of the Occult Forces. A body can only *conceptually*, only on this plane of illusion, be considered divorced from its relations with other bodies—which, according to the physical and mechanical sciences, give rise to its attributes. In fact, it can never be so detached; death itself being unable to detach it from its relation with the Universal Forces, of which the One FORCE, or LIFE, is the synthesis: the inter-relation simply continues on another plane. But what, if Stallo is right, can Dr. James Croll mean when, in speaking "On the Transformation of Gravity," he brings

<sup>1</sup> Schelling, *Ideen*, etc., p. 18.

<sup>2</sup> *Op cit*, p. 161

<sup>3</sup> *Princ*, Def, III

forward the views advocated by Faraday, Waterston, and others? For he says very plainly that gravity

Is a force pervading Space external to bodies, and that, on the mutual approach of the bodies, the force is not increased, as is generally supposed, but the bodies merely pass into a place where the force exists with greater intensity<sup>1</sup>

No one will deny that a Force, whether gravity, electricity, or any other Force, which exists *outside* bodies and in open Space—be it Ether or a vacuum—must be *something*, and not a pure *nothing*, when conceived apart from a mass. Otherwise it could hardly exist in one place with a *greater* and in another with reduced “intensity” G. A. Hirn declares the same in his *Théorie Mécanique de l'Univers*. He tries to demonstrate

That the atom of the chemists is not an entity of pure convention, or simply an explicative device, but that it exists really, that its volume is unalterable, and that consequently it is *not* elastic [! !] Force, therefore, is not in the atom, it is *in the space* which separates the atoms from each other

The above-cited views, expressed by two men of Science of great eminence in their respective countries, show that it is not in the least *unscientific* to speak of the substantiality of the so-called Forces. Subject to some future specific name, this Force is *Substance* of some kind, and can be nothing else, and perhaps one day Science will be the first to re-adopt the derided name of phlogiston. Whatever may be the future name given to it, to maintain that Force does *not* reside in the Atoms, but only in the “space between them,” may be scientific enough, nevertheless it is not true. To the mind of an Occultist it is like saying that water does not reside in the drops of which the ocean is composed, but only in the space between those drops!

The objection that there are two distinct schools of Physicists, by one of which

This force is assumed to be an independent substantial entity, which is not a property of matter nor essentially related to matter,<sup>2</sup>

is hardly likely to help the profane to any clearer understanding. It is, on the contrary, more calculated to throw the question into still greater confusion than ever. For Force is then neither this nor the other. By viewing it as “an independent substantial entity,” the theory extends the right hand of fellowship to Occultism, while the strange contradictory idea that it is not “related to Matter otherwise than by its power to act upon it,”<sup>3</sup> leads Physical Science to the most absurd contradictory hypotheses. Whether “Force” or “Motion” (Occultism, seeing no difference between the two, never

<sup>1</sup> *Philosophical Magazine*, Vol. II, p. 252

<sup>2</sup> *Concepts of Modern Physics*, p. xxxi, Introductory to the 2nd Edition

<sup>3</sup> Loc. cit

attempts to separate them), it cannot act for the adherents of the atomo-mechanical theory in one way, and for those of the rival school in another. Nor can the Atoms be, in one case, *absolutely uniform in size and weight*, and in another, vary in their weight (Avogadro's law). For, in the words of the same able critic :

While the absolute equality of the primordial units of mass is thus an essential part of the very foundations of the mechanical theory, the whole modern science of chemistry is based upon a principle directly subversive of it—a principle of which it has recently been said that “it holds the same place in chemistry that the law of gravitation does in astronomy”<sup>1</sup> This principle is known as the law of Avogadro or Ampère.<sup>2</sup>

This shows that either modern Chemistry, or modern Physics, is entirely wrong in their respective fundamental principles. For if the assumption of Atoms of different specific gravities is deemed absurd, on the basis of the atomic theory in Physics, and if Chemistry, nevertheless, on this very assumption, meets with “unfailing experimental verification,” in the formation and transformation of chemical compounds, then it becomes apparent that it is the atomo-mechanical theory which is untenable. The explanation of the latter, that “the differences of weight are only differences of density, and differences of density are differences of distance between the particles contained in a given space,” is not really valid, because, before a Physicist can argue in his defence that “as in the atom there is no multiplicity of particles and no void space, hence differences of density or weight are impossible in the case of atoms,” he must first know what an Atom is, in reality, and that is just what he cannot know. He must bring it under the observation of at least one of his physical senses—and that *he cannot do* for the simple reason that no one has ever seen, *smelt, heard, touched or tasted* an “Atom.” The Atom belongs wholly to the domain of Metaphysics. It is an *entified abstraction*—at any rate for Physical Science—and has nought to do with Physics, strictly speaking, as it can never be brought to the test of retort or balance. The mechanical conception, therefore, becomes a jumble of the most conflicting theories and dilemmas, in the minds of the many Scientists who disagree on this, as on other subjects; and

<sup>1</sup> J. P. Cooke, *The New Chemistry*, p. 5

<sup>2</sup> “It imports that equal volumes of all substances, when in the gaseous state, and under like conditions of pressure and temperature, contain the same number of molecules—whence it follows that the weights of the molecules are proportional to the specific gravities of the gases, that therefore, these being different, the weights of the molecule are different also, and inasmuch as the molecules of certain elementary substances are monatomic (consist of but one atom each) while the molecules of various other substances contain the same number of atoms, that the ultimate atoms of such substances are of different weights,” (*Concepts of Modern Physics*, p. 34) As shown further on in the same volume, this cardinal principle of modern theoretical chemistry is in utter and irreconcilable conflict with the first proposition of the atomo-mechanical theory—namely, the absolute equality of the primordial units of mass.

its evolution is beheld with the greatest bewilderment by the Eastern Occultist, who follows this scientific strife.

To conclude, on the question of gravity. How can Science presume to know anything certain of it? How can it maintain its position and its hypotheses against those of the Occultists, who see in gravity only sympathy and antipathy, or attraction and repulsion, caused by physical polarity on our terrestrial plane, and by spiritual causes outside its influence? How can they disagree with the Occultists before they agree among themselves? Indeed one hears of the Conservation of Energy, and in the same breath of the perfect hardness and inelasticity of the Atoms, of the kinetic theory of gases being identical with "potential energy," so called, and, at the same time, of the elementary units of mass being *absolutely hard and inelastic*! An Occultist opens a scientific work and reads as follows:

Physical atomism derives all the qualitative properties of matter from the forms of atomic motion. *The atoms themselves remain as elements utterly devoid of quality*<sup>1</sup>

And further:

Chemistry in its ultimate form must be atomic mechanics.<sup>2</sup>

And a moment after he is told that:

Gases consist of atoms which *behave like solid, perfectly elastic spheres*<sup>3</sup>

Finally, to crown all, Sir W. Thomson is found declaring that:

We are forbidden by the modern theory of the conservation of energy to assume inelasticity, or anything short of perfect elasticity of the ultimate molecules whether of ultra-mundane or mundane matter.<sup>4</sup>

But what do the men of *true* Science say to all this? By the "men of true Science" we mean those who care too much for truth and too little for personal vanity to dogmatize on anything, as do the majority. There are several among them—perhaps more than dare openly publish their secret conclusions, for fear of the cry "Stone him to death!"—men, whose intuitions have made them span the abyss that lies between the terrestrial aspect of Matter, and the, to us, on our plane of illusion, subjective, i.e., TRANSCENDENTALLY OBJECTIVE SUBSTANCE, and have led them to proclaim the existence of the latter. Matter, to the Occultist, it must be remembered, is that totality of existences in the Kosmos, which falls within any of the planes of possible perception. We are but too well aware that the orthodox theories of sound,

<sup>1</sup> Wundt, *Die Theorie der Materie*, p. 381

<sup>2</sup> Nazesmann, *Thermochemie*, p. 150

<sup>3</sup> Kroenig, Clausius, Maxwell, etc., *Philosophical Magazine*, Vol. xix, p. 18

<sup>4</sup> *Philosophical Magazine*, Vol. xiv, p. 321

heat and light, are against the Occult Doctrines. But, it is not enough for the men of Science, or their defenders, to say that *they do not deny dynamic power to light and heat*, and to urge, as a proof, the fact that Mr. Crookes' radiometer has unsettled no views. If they would fathom the ultimate nature of these Forces, they have first to admit their *substantial* nature, however *supersensuous* that nature may be. Neither do the Occultists deny the correctness of the vibratory theory.<sup>1</sup> Only they limit its functions to our Earth—declaring its inadequacy on other planes than ours, since Masters in the Occult Sciences perceive the Causes that produce ethereal vibrations. Were all these only the fictions of the Alchemists, or dreams of the Mystics, such men as Paracelsus, Philalethes, Van Helmont, and so many others, would have to be regarded as worse than visionaries; they would become impostors and deliberate mystificators.

The Occultists are taken to task for calling the Cause of light, heat, sound, cohesion, magnetism, etc., etc., a *Substance*.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Clerk Maxwell has stated that the pressure of strong sunlight on a square mile is about 3½ lbs. It is, they are told, "the energy of the myriad ether waves"; and when they call it a Substance impinging on that area, their explanation is proclaimed *unscientific*.

There is no justification for such an accusation. In no way—as already more than once stated—do the Occultists dispute the explanations of Science, as affording a solution of the *immediate* objective agencies at work. Science only errs in believing that, because it has detected in vibratory waves the *proximate* cause of these phenomena, it has, therefore, revealed ALL that lies beyond the threshold of Sense. It merely traces the sequence of phenomena on a plane of effects, illusory projections from the region that Occultism has long since penetrated. And the latter maintains that those etheric tremors are not set up, as asserted by Science, by the vibrations of the molecules of *known* bodies, the Matter of our terrestrial objective consciousness, but that we must seek for the ultimate Causes of light, heat, etc., in MATTER existing in *supersensuous* states—states, however, as fully objective to the spiritual eye of man, as a horse or a tree is to the ordinary mortal. Light and heat are the ghost or shadow of Matter in motion. Such states can be perceived by the Seer

<sup>1</sup> Referring to the "Aura," one of the Masters says in *The Occult World* "How could you make yourself understood by, command in fact, those semi-intelligent forces, whose means of communication with us are not through spoken words, but through sounds and colours in correlation between the vibrations of the two." It is this "correlation" that is unknown to modern Science, although it has been many times explained by the Alchemists.

<sup>2</sup> The Substance of the Occultist, however, is to the most refined Substance of the Physicist, what *Radiant Matter* is to the leather of the Chemist's boots.



or the Adept during the hours of trance, under the *Sushumnâ Ray*—the first of the Seven Mystic Rays of the Sun.<sup>1</sup>

Thus, we put forward the Occult teaching which maintains the reality of a supersubstantial and supersensible essence of that *Âkâsha*—not Ether, which is only an aspect of the latter—the nature of which cannot be inferred from its remoter manifestations, its *merely phenomenal phalanx of effects*, on this terrene plane. Science, on the contrary, informs us that heat can never be regarded as Matter in any conceivable state. [To cite a most impartial critic, one whose authority no one can call in question, as a reminder to Western dogmatists, that the question cannot be in any way considered as settled :

There is no fundamental difference between light and heat each is merely a metamorphosis of the other Heat is light in complete repose Light is heat in rapid motion Directly light is combined with a body, it becomes heat, but when it is thrown off from that body it again becomes light.<sup>2</sup>

*Whether this is true or false we cannot tell, and many years, perhaps many generations, will have to elapse before we shall be able to tell.*'] We are also told that the two great obstacles to the fluid (?) theory of heat undoubtedly are .

(1) The production of heat by friction—excitation of molecular motion.

(2) The conversion of heat into mechanical motion.

The answer given is There are fluids of various kinds. Electricity is called a fluid, and so was heat quite recently, but it was on the supposition that heat was some imponderable substance. This was during the supreme and autocratic reign of Matter. When Matter was dethroned, and MOTION was proclaimed the sole sovereign ruler of the Universe, heat became a “mode of motion” We need not despair, it may become something else to-morrow Like the Universe itself, Science is ever *becoming*, and can never say, “I am that I am” On the other hand, Occult Science has its *changeless* traditions from pre-historic times. It may err in particulars, it can never become guilty of a mistake in questions of Universal Law, simply because that Science, justly referred to by Philosophy as the “*Divine*,” was born on higher planes, and was brought to Earth by Beings who were wiser than man will be, even in the Seventh Race of his Seventh Round. And *that* Science maintains

<sup>1</sup> The names of the Seven Rays—which are, Sushumnâ, Harikesa, Vishvakarman, Vishvatryarchâs, Sannaddha, Sarvâvasu and Svarâj—are all mystical, and each has its distinct application in a distinct state of consciousness, for Occult purposes The Sushumnâ, which, as said in the Nirkuta (II, 6), is only to light up the Moon, is the Ray nevertheless cherished by the initiated Yogis The totality of the Seven Rays spread through the Solar System constitutes, so to say, the physical *Upâdhi* (Basis) of the *Ether of Science*, in which Upâdhi, light, heat, electricity, etc., the Forces of orthodox Science, correlate to produce their terrestrial effects As psychic and spiritual effects, they emanate from, and have their origin in, the supra-solar Upâdhi, in the Ether of the Occultist—or *Âkâsha*

<sup>2</sup> Leslie's *Fluid Theory of Light and Heat*.

<sup>3</sup> Buckle's *History of Civilization*, Vol. III, p. 384.

that Forces are not what modern learning would have them, e.g., magnetism is not a "mode of motion", and, in this particular case, at least, exact modern Science is sure to come to grief some day. Nothing, at the first blush, can appear more ridiculous, more outrageously absurd than to say, for instance The Hindu initiated Yogi knows really *ten times more than the greatest European Physicist of the ultimate nature and constitution of light*, both solar and lunar. Yet why is the Sushumnâ Ray believed to be that Ray which furnishes the Moon with its borrowed light? Why is it "the Ray cherished by the *initiated Yogi*"? Why is the Moon considered as the *Deity of the Mind*, by those Yogis? We say, because light, or rather all its Occult properties, every combination and correlation of it with other forces, mental, psychic, and spiritual, was perfectly known to the old Adepts.

Therefore, although Occult Science may be less well-informed than modern Chemistry as to the behaviour of compound elements in various cases of physical correlation,<sup>1</sup> yet it is immeasurably higher in its knowledge of the ultimate Occult states of Matter, and of the true nature of Matter, than all the Physicists and Chemists of our modern day put together.

Now, if we state the truth openly and in full sincerity, namely, that the ancient Initiates had a far wider knowledge of Physics, as a Science of Nature, than is possessed by our Academies of Science, all taken together, the statement will be characterized as an impertinence and an absurdity, for Physical Sciences are considered to have been carried in our age to the apex of perfection. Hence, the twitting query: Can the Occultists meet successfully the two points, namely (a) the production of heat by friction—excitation of molecular motion; and (b) the conversion of heat into mechanical force, if they hold to the old exploded theory of heat being a substance or a fluid?

To answer the question, it must first be observed that the Occult Sciences do not regard either electricity, or any of the Forces supposed to be generated by it, as Matter *in any of the states known to Physical Science*; to put it more clearly, none of these "Forces," so-called, is a solid, gas, or fluid. If it did not look pedantic, an Occultist would even object to electricity being called a fluid—as it is an effect and not a cause. But its *Noumenon*, he would say, is a *Conscious Cause*. The same in the cases of "Force" and the "Atom." Let us see what an eminent Academician, Butlerof, the

<sup>1</sup> In the 1888 edition this reads: Therefore, although, in its knowledge of the ultimate constitution of matter, or in the so-called ultimate analysis as opposed to the proximate in chemistry, occult science may be less well-informed as to the behaviour of compound elements in various cases of physical correlations

Chemist, had to say about these two abstractions. This great man of Science argues :

What is Force ? What is it from a strictly scientific stand-point, and as warranted by the law of conservation of energy ? Conceptions of Force are resumed by our conceptions of this, that, or another mode of motion. Force is thus simply the passage of one state of motion into another state of the same, of electricity into heat and light, of heat into sound or some mechanical function, and so on<sup>1</sup>. The first time electric fluid was produced by man on earth it must have been by friction ; hence, as well known, it is heat that produces it by disturbing its zero state,<sup>2</sup> and electricity exists no more on earth *per se* than heat or light, or any other force. They are all correlations, as Science says. When a given quantity of heat, assisted by a steam engine, is transformed into mechanical work, we speak of steam power (or force). When a falling body strikes an obstacle in its way, thereby generating heat and sound—we call it the power of collision. When electricity decomposes water or heats a platinum wire, we speak of the force of the electric fluid. When the rays of the sun are intercepted by the thermometer bulb and its quicksilver expands, we speak of the calorific energy of the sun. In short, when one state of a determined quantity of motion ceases, another state of motion equivalent to the preceding takes its place, and the result of such transformation or correlation is—Force. In all cases where such a transformation, or the passage of one state of motion into another, is entirely absent, there no force is possible. Let us admit for a moment an absolutely homogeneous state of the Universe, and our conception of Force falls down to nought.

Therefore it becomes evident that the Force, which Materialism considers as the cause of the diversity that surrounds us, is in sober reality only an effect, a result of that diversity. From such point of view Force is not the cause of motion, but a result, while the cause of that Force, or forces, is not the Substance or Matter, but Motion itself. Matter thus must be laid aside, and with it the basic principle of Materialism, which has become unnecessary, as Force brought down to a state of motion can give no idea of the Substance. If Force is the result of motion, then it becomes incomprehensible *why that motion should become witness to Matter and not to Spirit or a Spiritual essence*. True, our reason cannot conceive of a motion minus something moving (and our reason is right), but the nature or *esse* of that something moving remains to Science entirely unknown, and the Spiritualist, in such case, has as much right to attribute it to a "Spirit," as a Materialist to creative and all-potential Matter. A Materialist has no special privileges in this instance, nor can he claim any. The law of the conservation of energy, as thus seen, is shown to be illegitimate in its pretensions and claims in this case. The "great dogma"—*no force without matter and no matter without force*—falls to the ground, and loses entirely the solemn significance with which Materialism has tried to invest it. The conception of Force still gives no idea of Matter, and compels us in no way to see in it "the origin of all origins."<sup>3</sup>

We are assured that modern Science is not Materialistic, and our own conviction tells us that it cannot be so, when its learning is real. There is good reason for this, well defined by some Physicists and Chemists themselves. Natural Sciences *cannot* go hand in hand with Materialism. To be at the height of their calling, men of Science have to reject the very possibility of

<sup>1</sup> On the plane of manifestation and illusionary matter it may be so, not that it is nothing more, for it is vastly more.

<sup>2</sup> Neutral, or Laya.

<sup>3</sup> *Scientific Letters*, Professor A. Butlerof.

Materialistic doctrines having aught to do with the *Atomic Theory*; and we find that Lange, Butlerof, Du Bois Reymond—the last probably unconsciously—and several others, have proved it. And this is, furthermore, demonstrated by the fact, that Kanâda in India, and Leucippus and Democritus in Greece, and after them Epicurus—the earliest Atomists in Europe—while propagating their doctrine of definite proportions, believed in Gods or supersensuous Entities, at the same time. Their ideas upon Matter thus differed from those now prevalent. We must be allowed to make our statement clearer by a short synopsis of the ancient and modern views of Philosophy upon Atoms, and thus prove that the Atomic Theory kills Materialism.

From the standpoint of Materialism, which reduces the beginnings of all to *Matter*, the Universe consists, in its fulness, of Atoms and vacuity. Even leaving aside the axiom taught by the Ancients, and now absolutely demonstrated by telescope and microscope, that Nature abhors a vacuum, what is an Atom? Professor Butlerof writes:

It is, we are answered by Science, the limited division of Substance, the indivisible particle of Matter. To admit the divisibility of the atom, amounts to an admission of an infinite divisibility of Substance, which is equivalent to reducing Substance to *nil*, or nothingness. Owing to a feeling of self-preservation alone, Materialism cannot admit infinite divisibility, otherwise it would have to bid farewell for ever to its basic principle and thus sign its own death-warrant.<sup>1</sup>

Buchner, for instance, like a true dogmatist in Materialism declares that:

To accept infinite divisibility is absurd, and amounts to doubting the very existence of Matter

The Atom is indivisible then, saith Materialism? Very well. Butlerof answers

See now what a curious contradiction this fundamental principle of the Materialists is leading them into. The atom is *indivisible*, and at the same time we know it to be *elastic*. An attempt to deprive it of elasticity is unthinkable, it would amount to an absurdity. Absolutely non-elastic atoms could never exhibit a single one of those numerous phenomena that are attributed to their correlations. Without any elasticity, the atoms could not manifest their energy, and the Substance of the Materialists would remain weeded of every force. Therefore, if the Universe is composed of atoms, then those atoms *must be elastic*. It is here that we meet with an insuperable obstacle. For, what are the conditions requisite for the manifestation of elasticity? An elastic ball, when striking against an obstacle, is flattened and contracts, which it would be impossible for it to do, were not that ball to consist of particles, the relative position of which experiences at the time of the blow a temporary change. This may be said of elasticity in general, no elasticity is possible without change with respect to the position of the compound particles of an elastic body. This means that the elastic body is changeful and consists of particles, or, in other words, that elasticity can pertain only to those bodies that are divisible. And the atom is elastic.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ibid

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

This is sufficient to show how absurd are the simultaneous admissions of the non-divisibility and of the elasticity of the Atom. The Atom *is* elastic, *ergo*, the Atom is divisible, and must consist of particles, or of *sub-atoms*. And these sub-atoms? They are either non-elastic, and in such case they represent no dynamic importance, or, they are *elastic* also, and in that case, they, too, are subject to divisibility. And thus *ad infinitum*. But infinite divisibility of Atoms resolves Matter into simple centres of Force, *i.e.*, precludes the possibility of conceiving Matter as an *objective* substance.

This vicious circle is fatal to Materialism. It finds itself caught in its own nets, and no issue out of the dilemma is possible for it. If it says that the Atom is indivisible, then it will have Mechanics asking it the awkward question :

How does the Universe move in this case, and how do its forces correlate? A world built on absolutely *non-elastic* atoms, is like an engine without steam, it is doomed to eternal inertia<sup>1</sup>

Accept the explanations and teachings of Occultism, and—the blind inertia of Physical Science being replaced by the *intelligent active* Powers behind the veil of Matter—motion and inertia become subservient to those Powers. It is on the doctrine of the illusive nature of Matter, and the infinite divisibility of the Atom, that the whole Science of Occultism is built. It opens limitless horizons to *Substance*, informed by the divine breath of its Soul in every possible state of tenuity, states still undreamed of by the most spiritually disposed Chemists and Physicists.

The above views were enunciated by an Academician, the greatest Chemist in Russia, and a recognized authority even in Europe, Professor A. Butlerov. True, he was defending the phenomena of the Spiritualists, the materializations, so-called, in which he believed, as Professors Zollner and Hare did, as Mr. A. Russel Wallace, Prof. [Sir] W. Crookes and many another Fellow of the Royal Society, do still, whether openly or secretly. But his argument with regard to the nature of the Essence that acts behind the physical phenomena of light, heat, electricity, etc., is no less scientific and authoritative for all that, and applies admirably to the case in hand. Science has no right to deny to the Occultists their claim to a more profound knowledge of the so-called Forces, which, they say, are only the effects of causes generated by Powers, substantial, yet supersensuous, and *beyond* any kind of Matter with which Scientists have hitherto become acquainted. The most Science can do is to assume and to maintain the attitude of Agnosticism. Then it can say. Your case is no more proven than is ours; but we confess to knowing nothing in reality either about Force or Matter, or about that which

<sup>1</sup> Ibid

lies at the bottom of the so-called correlation of Forces. Therefore, time alone can prove who is right and who is wrong. Let us wait patiently, and meanwhile show mutual courtesy, instead of scoffing at each other.

But to do this requires a boundless love of truth and the surrender of that prestige—however false—of *infallibility*, which the men of Science have acquired among the ignorant and flippant, though cultured, masses of the profane. The blending of the two Sciences, the Archaic and the Modern, requires first of all the abandonment of the actual Materialistic lines. It necessitates a kind of religious Mysticism and even the study of old Magic, which our Academicians will never take up. The necessity is easily explained. Just as in old Alchemical works the real meaning of the Substances and Elements mentioned is concealed under the most ridiculous metaphors, so are the physical, psychic, and spiritual natures of the Elements (say of Fire) concealed in the *Vedas*, and especially in the *Purânas*, under allegories comprehensible only to the Initiates. Had they no meaning, then indeed all these long legends and allegories about the sacredness of the three types of Fire, and the *forty-nine original Fires*—personified by the Sons of Daksha's Daughters and the Rishis, their Husbands, "who with the first Son of Brahmâ and his three descendants constitute the Forty-nine Fires"—would be idiotic verbiage and no more. But it is not so. Every *Fire* has a distinct function and meaning in the worlds of the physical and the spiritual. It has, moreover, in its *essential* nature a corresponding relation to one of the human psychic faculties, besides its well determined chemical and physical potencies when coming in contact with *terrestrially* differentiated Matter. Science has no speculations to offer upon Fire *per se*; Occultism and ancient religious Science have. This is shown even in the meagre and purposely veiled phraseology of the *Purânas*, where, as in the *Vâyu Purâna*, many of the qualities of the personified Fires are explained. Thus, Pāvaka is Electric Fire, or *Vaidyuta*; Pavamâna, the *Fire produced by friction*, or *Nirmathya*; and Shuchi is Solar Fire, or *Saura*<sup>1</sup>—all these three being the sons of Abhimânin, the Agni (Fire), eldest son of Brahmâ and of Svâhâ. Pāvaka, moreover, is made parent to Kavyavâhana, the *Fire of the Pitris*; Shuchi to Havyavâhana, the Fire of the Gods; and Pavamâna to Saharaksha, the Fire of the Asuras. Now all this shows that the writers of the *Purânas* were perfectly conversant with the Forces of Science and their correlations, as well as with the various qualities of the latter in their bearing upon those psychic and physical phenomena which receive no credit and are now unknown to Physical Science. Very naturally, when an Orientalist, especially one with materialistic tendencies, reads that

<sup>1</sup> Called the "drinker of waters," solar heat causing water to evaporate

these are only appellations of Fire employed in the *invocations* and rituals, he calls this “Tāntrika superstition and mystification”; and he becomes more careful to avoid errors in spelling than to give attention to the secret meaning attached to the personifications, or to seek their explanation in the physical correlations of Forces, so far as these are known. So little credit, indeed, is given to the ancient Āryans for knowledge, that even such glaring passages as that in *Vishnu Purāna*, are left without any notice. Nevertheless, what can this sentence mean?

Then ether, air, light, water, and earth, severally united with the properties of sound and the rest, existed as distinguishable according to their qualities, . . . but, possessing various energies and being unconnected, they could not, without combination, create living beings, not having blended with each other. Having combined therefore with one another, they assumed, through their mutual association, the character of one mass of entire unity, and, from the direction of spirit, etc.<sup>1</sup>

This means, of course, that the writers were perfectly acquainted with correlation, and were well posted about the origin of Kosmos from the ‘Indiscrete Principle,’ Avyaktānugrahena, as applied to Parabrahman and Mūlaprakṛiti conjointly, and not to “Avyakta, either First Cause, or Matter,” as Wilson gives it. The old Initiates knew of no “miraculous creation,” but taught the evolution of Atoms, on our physical plane, and their first differentiation from *Laya* into *Protyle*, as Prof. Crookes has suggestively named Matter, or primordial substance, beyond the zero-line—there where we place *Mūlaprakṛiti*, the Root-Principle of the World-Stuff and of all in the World.

This can be easily demonstrated. Take, for instance, the newly-published catechism of the Vishishthādvaita Vedāntins, an orthodox and exoteric system, yet fully enunciated and taught in the 11th century<sup>2</sup> at a time when European ‘Science’ still believed in the squareness and flatness of the Earth of Cosmas Indicopleustes of the 6th century. It teaches that before Evolution began, Prakṛiti, Nature, was in a condition of *Laya*, or of absolute homogeneity, as “Matter exists in two conditions, the *sūkshma*, or latent and undifferentiated, and the *sthūla*, or differentiated, condition.” Then it became *anu*, atomic. It teaches of *Suddasattva*—“a substance not subject to the qualities of matter, from which it is quite different,” and adds that out of that substance the bodies of the Gods, the inhabitants of *Vaikunthaloka*, the Heaven of *Vishnu*, are formed. That every particle or atom of Prakṛiti contains *Jiva* (divine life), and is the *Sharīra* (body) of that *Jiva* which it contains, while every *Jiva* is in its turn the *Sharīra* of the Supreme Spirit, as “Parabrahman pervades every *Jiva*, as well as every particle of matter.” Dualistic and anthropomorphic as may be the philosophy of the Vishishthādvaita, when

compared with that of the Advaita—the non-dualists—it is yet supremely higher in logic and philosophy than the Cosmogony accepted either by Christianity or by its great opponent, modern Science. The followers of one of the greatest minds that ever appeared on Earth, the Advaita Vedântins are called Atheists, because they regard all save Parabrahman, the *secondless*, or the Absolute Reality, as an illusion. Yet the wisest Initiates came from their ranks, as also the greatest Yogis. The *Upanishads* show that they most assuredly knew not only what is the *causal* substance in the *effects of friction*, and that their forefathers were acquainted with the *conversion of heat into mechanical force*, but that they were also acquainted with the *Noumenon* of every spiritual as well as of every cosmic phenomenon.

Truly the young Brâhman who graduates in the Universities and Colleges of India with the highest honours, who starts in life as an M A and an LL B, with a tail initialled from Alpha to Omega after his name, and a contempt for his national Gods proportioned to the honours received in his education in Physical Science, truly he has but to read in the light of the latter, and with an eye to the correlation of physical Forces, certain passages in his *Purânas*, if he would learn how much more his ancestors knew than he will ever know—unless he becomes an Occultist. Let him turn to the allegory of Purûravas and the celestial Gandharva,<sup>1</sup> who furnished the former with a vessel full of heavenly fire. The primeval mode of obtaining fire by friction has its scientific explanation in the *Vedas*, and is pregnant with meaning for him who reads between the lines. The Tretâgni (sacred triad of fires) obtained by the attrition of sticks made of the wood of the Ashvattha tree, the Bo-tree of Wisdom and Knowledge, sticks “as many finger-breadths long as there are syllables in the Gâyatri,” must have a secret meaning, or else the writers of the *Vedas* and *Purânas* were no sacred writers but mystificators. That it has such a meaning, the Hindu Occultists are a proof, and they alone are able to enlighten Science, as to why and how the Fire, that was primevally one, was made three-fold (tridhâ) in our present Manvantara, by the Son of Ilâ (Vâch), the Primeval Woman after the Deluge, the wife and daughter of Vaivasvata Manu. The allegory is suggestive, in whatever *Purâna* it may be read and studied.

<sup>1</sup> The Gandharva of the *Veda* is the deity who knows and reveals the secrets of heaven and divine truths to mortals. Cosmically, the Gandharvas are the aggregate Powers of the Solar Fire and constitute its Forces, psychically, the Intelligence residing in the Sushumnâ, the Solar Ray, the highest of the Seven Rays, mystically, the Occult Force in the Soma, the Moon, or lunar plant, and the drink made of it, physically, the phenomenal, and spiritually, the noumenal, causes of Sound and the “Voice of Nature.” Hence, they are called the 6,333 heavenly singers and musicians of Indra’s Loka, who personify, even in number, the various and manifold sounds in Nature, both above and below. In the latter allegories they are said to have mystic power over women, and to be fond of them. The Esoteric meaning is plain. They are one of the forms, if not the prototypes, of Enoch’s Angels, the Sons of God, who saw that the daughters of men were fair (Gen., vi, 2), who married them, and taught the daughters of Earth the secrets of Heaven.



## SECTION 6

### AN ATTACK ON THE SCIENTIFIC THEORY OF FORCE BY A MAN OF SCIENCE

THE wise words of several English men of Science have now to be quoted in our favour. Ostracized for "principle's sake" by the few, they are tacitly approved of by the many. That one of them preaches almost Occult doctrines—in some things identical with, and often amounting to a public recognition of, our "*Fohat* and his seven Sons," the Occult Gandharva of the Vedas—will be recognized by every Occultist, and even by some profane readers.

If such readers will open Volume V of the *Popular Science Review*,<sup>1</sup> they will find in it an article on "Sun-Force and Earth-Force," by Dr. B. W. Richardson, F.R.S., which reads as follows

At this moment, when the theory of mere motion as the origin of all varieties of force is again becoming the prevailing thought, it were almost heresy to reopen a debate, which for a period appears, by general consent, to be virtually closed, but I accept the risk, and shall state, therefore, what were the precise views of the immortal heretic, whose name I have whispered to the readers, (Samuel Metcalfe,) respecting Sun-Force. Starting with the argument on which nearly all physicists are agreed, that there exist in nature two agencies—matter which is ponderable, visible, and tangible, and a something which is imponderable, invisible, and appreciable only by its influence on matter—Metcalf maintains that the imponderable and active agency which he calls "caloric" is *not a mere form of motion*, not a vibration amongst the particles of ponderable matter, but *itself a material substance flowing from the sun through space*,<sup>2</sup> filling the voids between the particles of solid bodies, and conveying by sensation the property called heat. The nature of caloric, or Sun-Force, is contended for by him on the following grounds

(i) That it may be added to, and abstracted from other bodies and measured with mathematical precision

<sup>1</sup> Pp 329-34

<sup>2</sup> Not only "through space," but filling every point of our Solar System, for it is the physical residue, so to say, of Ether, its *lining* on our plane, Ether having to serve other cosmic and terrestrial purposes besides being the *agent* for transmitting light. It is the Astral Fluid or "Light" of the Kabalists, and the "Seven Rays" of Sun-Vishnu

(ii) That it augments the volume of bodies, which are again reduced in size by its abstraction.

(iii) That it modifies the forms, properties, and conditions of all other bodies

(iv) That *it passes by radiation through the most perfect vacuum*<sup>1</sup> that can be formed, in which it produces the same effects on the thermometer as in the atmosphere

(v) That it exerts mechanical and chemical forces which nothing can restrain, as in volcanoes, the explosion of gunpowder, and other fulminating compounds

(vi) That it operates in a sensible manner on the nervous system, producing intense pain, and when in excess, disorganization of the tissues

As against the vibratory theory, Metcalfe further argues that if caloric were a *mere property or quality*, it could not augment the volume of other bodies, for this purpose it must itself have volume, it must occupy space, and it must, therefore, be a material agent. If caloric were *only the effect of vibratory motion* amongst the particles of ponderable matter, *it could not radiate from hot bodies* without the simultaneous transition of the vibrating particles, but the fact stands out that heat can radiate from material ponderable substance without loss of weight of such substance. With this view as to the material nature of caloric or sun-force, with the impression firmly fixed on his mind that "everything in Nature is composed of two descriptions of matter, the one essentially active and ethereal, the other passive and motionless,"<sup>2</sup> Metcalfe based the hypothesis that the sun-force, or caloric, is a self-active principle. For its own particles, he holds, it has repulsion, for the particles of all ponderable matter it has affinity, it attracts the particles of ponderable matter with forces which vary inversely as the squares of the distance. It thus acts *through* ponderable matter. If universal space were filled with caloric, sun-force, alone (without ponderable matter), caloric would also be inactive and would constitute a boundless ocean of powerless or quiescent ether, because it would then have nothing on which to act, while ponderable matter, however inactive of itself, has "certain properties by which it modifies and controls the actions of caloric, both of which are governed by immutable laws that have their origin in the mutual relations and specific properties of each."

And he lays down a law which he believes is absolute, and which is thus expressed

"By the attraction of caloric for ponderable matter, it unites and holds together all things, by its self-repulsive energy it separates and expands all things."

This, of course, is almost the Occult explanation of cohesion. Dr. Richardson continues

As I have already said, *the tendency of modern teaching is to rest upon the hypothesis that heat is motion*, or, as it would, perhaps, be better stated, a specific force or form of motion<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> What need, then, of etheric waves for the transmission of light, heat, etc., if *this substance* can pass through vacuum

<sup>2</sup> And how can it be otherwise? Gross ponderable matter is the body, the shell, of Matter or Substance, the female passive principle, and this Fohatic Force is the second principle, *Prana*—the male and the active. On our globe this Substance is the second principle of the septenary Element—Earth, in the atmosphere, it is that of Air, which is the cosmic gross body, in the Sun it becomes the Solar Body and that of the Seven Rays, in Sidereal Space it corresponds with another principle, and so on. The whole is a homogeneous Unity alone, the parts are all differentiations

<sup>3</sup> Or the reverberation, and for sound repercussion, on our plane of that which is a perpetual motion of that Substance on higher planes. Our world and senses are ceaselessly victims of *Mâyâ*.

But this hypothesis, popular as it is, is not one that ought to be accepted to the exclusion of the simpler views of the material nature of sun-force, and of its influence in modifying the conditions of matter. *We do not yet know sufficient to be dogmatic* <sup>1</sup>

The hypothesis of Metcalfe respecting sun-force and earth-force is not only very simple, but most fascinating. Here are two elements in the universe, the one is ponderable matter. The second element is the all-pervading ether, solar fire. It is *without weight, substance, form, or colour*, *it is matter infinitely divisible*, and its particles repel each other, its rarity is such that we have no word, except ether,<sup>2</sup> by which to express it. It pervades and fills space, but alone it too is quiescent—dead.<sup>3</sup> We bring together the two elements, the inert matter, the self-repulsive ether [?] and thereupon dead [?] ponderable matter is vivified, [*Ponderable matter may be inert but never dead—this is Occult Law*—H P B.] through the particles of the ponderable substance the ether [*Ether's second principle*—H P B.] penetrates, and, so penetrating, it combines with the ponderable particles and holds them in mass, holds them together in bond of union, they are dissolved in the ether.

This distribution of solid ponderable matter through ether extends, according to the theory before us, to everything that exists at this moment. The ether is all-pervading. The human body itself is charged with the ether [*say astral light*—H P B.], its minute particles are held together by it, the plant is in the same condition, the most solid earth, rock, adamant, crystal, metal, all are the same. But there are differences in the capacities of different kinds of ponderable matter to receive sun-force, and upon this depends the various changing conditions of matter, the solid, the liquid, the gaseous condition. Solid bodies have attracted caloric in excess over fluid bodies, and hence their firm *cohesion*, when a portion of molten zinc is poured upon a plate of solid zinc, the molten zinc becomes as solid because there is a rush of caloric from the liquid to the solid, and in the equalization the particles, previously loose or liquid, are more closely brought together. Metcalfe himself, dwelling on the above-named phenomena, and accounting for them by the unity of principle of action, which has already been explained, sums up his argument in very clear terms, in a comment on the densities of various bodies. "Hardness and softness," he says, "solidity and liquidity, are not essential conditions of bodies, but depend on the relative proportions of ethereal and ponderable matter of which they are composed. The most elastic gas may be reduced to the liquid form by the abstraction of caloric, and again converted into a firm solid, the particles of which would cling together with a force proportional to their augmented affinity for caloric. On the other hand, by adding a sufficient quantity of the same principle to the densest metals, their attraction for it is diminished when they are expanded into the gaseous state, and their cohesion is destroyed."

Having thus quoted at length the *heterodox* views of the great "heretic"—views that to be correct, need only a little alteration of terms here and

<sup>1</sup> An honest admission, this.

<sup>2</sup> Yet it is not Ether, but only one of the principles of Ether, the latter being itself one of the principles of Ākāsha.

<sup>3</sup> And so does *prāna* (Jiva) pervade the whole living body of man, but alone, without having an atom to act upon, it would be *quiescent*—dead, i.e., would be in *laya*, or, as Prof. Crookes has it, "locked in Protyle." It is the action of *Fohat* upon a compound or even upon a simple body that produces life. When a body dies, it passes into the same polarity as its male energy, and repels therefore the active agent, which, losing hold of the whole, fastens on the parts or molecules, this action being called chemical. Vishnu, the Preserver, transforms himself into Rudra-Shiva, the Destroyer—a correlation seemingly unknown to Science.

there—Dr. Richardson, undeniably an original and liberal thinker, proceeds to sum up these views, and continues :

I shall not dwell at great length on this unity of sun-force and earth-force, which this theory implies. But I may add that out of it, or out of the hypothesis of mere motion as force, and of virtue without substance, we may gather, as the nearest possible approach to the truth on this, the most complex and profound of all subjects, the following inferences

(a) Space, inter-stellary, inter-planetary, inter-material, inter-organic, is not a vacuum, but is filled with a subtle fluid or gas, which for want of a better term<sup>1</sup> we may still call, as the ancients did, *Aith-ur*—Solar Fire—Æther. This fluid, unchangeable in composition, indestructible, invisible,<sup>2</sup> pervades everything and all [*ponderable*—H P B.] matter,<sup>3</sup> the pebble in the running brook, the tree overhanging, the man looking on, is charged with the ether in various degrees, the pebble less than the tree, the tree less than the man. All in the planet is in like manner so charged<sup>4</sup>. A world is built up in ethereal fluid, and moving through a sea of it.

(b) The ether, whatever its nature is, is from the sun and from the suns.<sup>4</sup> the suns are the generators of it, the store-houses of it, the diffusers of it.

(c) Without the ether there could be no motion. without it particles of ponderable matter could not glide over each other, without it there could be no impulse to excite those particles into action.

(d) Ether determines the constitution of bodies. Were there no ether there could be no change of constitution in substance, water, for instance, could only exist as a substance, compact and insoluble beyond any conception we could form of it. It could never even be ice, never fluid, never vapour, except for ether.

(e) Ether connects sun with planet, planet with planet, man with planet, man with man. Without ether there could be no communication in the Universe, no light, no heat, no phenomenon of motion.

Thus we find that Ether and *elastic* Atoms are, in the alleged *mechanical* conception of the Universe, the Spirit and Soul of Kosmos, and that the theory—put it in any way and under any disguise—always leaves a more widely opened issue for men of Science to speculate upon beyond the line of

<sup>1</sup> Verily, unless the Occult terms of the Kabalists are adopted.

<sup>2</sup> "Unchangeable" only during manvantaric periods, after which it merges once more into *Mûla-prakriti*, "invisible" for ever, in its own essence, but seen in its reflected coruscations, called the Astral Light by the modern Kabalists. Yet, conscious and grand Beings, clothed in that same Essence, move in it.

<sup>3</sup> One has to add ponderable, to distinguish it from that Ether which is Matter still, though a substratum.

<sup>4</sup> The Occult Sciences reverse the statement, and say that it is the Sun, and all the Suns that are from it, which emanate at the manvantaric dawn from the *Central Sun*.

<sup>5</sup> Here, we decidedly beg to differ from the learned gentleman. Let us remember that this Æther—whether *Ākāsha*, or its lower principle, Ether, is meant by the term—is septenary. *Ākāsha* is Aditi in the allegory, and the mother of Mārtanda, the Sun, the *Devamātri*, Mother of the Gods. In the Solar System, the Sun is her *Buddhi* and *Vāhan*, the Vehicle, hence the sixth principle, in Kosmos all the Suns are the *Kāma Rūpa* of *Ākāsha* and so is ours. It is only when regarded as an individual Entity in his own Kingdom, that *Sūrya*, the Sun, is the seventh principle of the great body of *matter*.

modern Materialism <sup>1</sup> than the majority avails itself of. Atoms, Ether, or both, modern speculation cannot get out of the circle of ancient thought ; and the latter was soaked through with archaic Occultism. Undulatory or corpuscular theory—it is all one. It is speculation from the aspects of phenomena, not from the knowledge of the essential nature of the cause and causes. When modern Science has explained to its audience the late achievements of Bunsen and Kirchoff, when it has shown the seven colours, the “ primary ” of a ray which is decomposed in a fixed order on a screen, and has described the respective lengths of luminous waves, what has it proved ? It has justified its reputation for exactness in mathematical achievement by measuring even the length of a luminous wave—“ varying from about seven hundred and sixty millionths of a millimetre at the red end of the spectrum to about three hundred and ninety-three millionths of a millimetre at the violet end.” But when the exactness of the calculation with regard to the effect on the light-wave is thus vindicated, Science is forced to admit that the force, which is the *supposed cause*, is *believed* to produce “ inconceivably minute undulations ” in some medium—“ generally regarded as identical with the ethereal medium ” <sup>2</sup>—and that medium itself is still only—a “ hypothetical agent ” !

Auguste Comte’s pessimism with respect to the possibility of knowing some day the chemical composition of the Sun, has not, as has been averred, been belied thirty years later by Kirchoff. The spectroscope has helped us to see that the elements, with which the modern Chemist is familiar, *must in all probability* be present in the Sun’s outward “ robes ”—*not in the Sun itself*, and, taking these “ robes,” the solar cosmic veil, for the Sun itself, the Physicists have declared its luminosity to be due to *combustion and flame*, and mistaking the vital principle of that luminary for a purely *material* thing, have called it “ *chromosphere*.” <sup>3</sup> We have only hypotheses and theories so far, not law—by any means.

<sup>1</sup> To be more correct, let us rather call it Agnosticism. Brutal but frank Materialism is more honest than Janus-faced Agnosticism in our days. Western *Monism*, so-called, is the Pecksniff of modern Philosophy, turning a pharisaical face to Psychology and Idealism, and its natural face of a Roman Augur, swelling his cheek with his tongue, to Materialism. Such Monists are worse than Materialists, because, while looking at the Universe and at psycho-spiritual man from the same negative stand-point, the latter put their case far less plausibly than do sceptics of Prof. Tyndall’s or even of Prof. Huxley’s stamp. Herbert Spencer, Bain and Lewes are more dangerous to universal truths than is Buchner.

<sup>2</sup> *World-Life*, by Professor A. Winchell.

<sup>3</sup> See *Five Years of Theosophy*, pp. 245-62—Arts. “ Do the Adepts deny the Nebular Theory ? ” and “ Is the Sun merely a Cooling Mass ? ”—for the true Occult teaching.

## SECTION 7

### LIFE, FORCE, OR GRAVITY

THE *imponderable* fluids have had their day, “mechanical Forces” are less talked about, Science has put on a new face for this last quarter of a century; but gravitation has remained, owing its life to new combinations after the old ones had nearly killed it. It may answer scientific hypotheses very well, but the question is whether it answers as well to truth, and represents a fact in nature. Attraction by itself is *not* sufficient to explain even planetary motion, how can it then presume to explain the rotatory motion in the infinitudes of Space? Attraction alone will never fill all the gaps, unless a special impulse is admitted for every sidereal body, and the rotation of every planet with its satellites is shown to be due to some *one cause* combined with attraction. And even then, says an Astronomer,<sup>1</sup> Science would have to name that cause.

Occultism has named it for ages, and so have all the ancient Philosophers, but then all such beliefs are now proclaimed exploded superstitions. The “extra-cosmic” God has killed every possibility of belief in *intra-cosmic* intelligent Forces, yet who, or what, is the original *pusher* in that motion? Says Francœur.<sup>2</sup>

When we have learned the cause, *unique et spéciale*, that pushes, we will be ready to combine it with the one which attracts

And again

Attraction between the celestial bodies is only repulsion. It is the sun that drives them incessantly onward, for otherwise, their motion would stop

If ever this theory of the Sun-Force being the primal cause of all life on earth, and of all motion in heaven, is accepted, and if that other far bolder theory of Herschel, about certain organisms in the Sun, is accepted even as a provisional hypothesis, then will our teachings be vindicated, and Esoteric allegory will be shown to have anticipated modern Science by millions of years, probably, for such are the Archaic Teachings. Mârtanda, the Sun, watches

<sup>1</sup> Philosophie Naturelle, art 142

<sup>2</sup> Astronomie, p 342

and threatens his seven brothers, the planets, without abandoning the central position to which his Mother, Aditi, relegated him. The Commentary<sup>1</sup> says :

*He pursues them, turning slowly round himself, . . . following from afar the direction in which his brothers move on the path that encircles their houses—or the orbit.*

It is the Sun-fluids or Emanations that impart all motion, and awaken all into life, in the Solar System. It is attraction and repulsion, but not as understood by modern Physics or according to the law of gravity, but in harmony with the laws of *Manvantaric motion* designed from the early *Sandhyā*, the Dawn of the rebuilding and higher reformation of the System. These laws are immutable, but the motion of all the bodies—which motion is diverse and alters with every *minor Kalpa*—is regulated by the *Movers*, the Intelligences within the Cosmic Soul. Are we so very wrong in believing all this? Well, here is a great and modern man of Science who, speaking of vital electricity, uses language far more akin to Occultism than to modern Materialistic thought. We refer the sceptical reader to an article on “The Source of Heat in the Sun,” by Robert Hunt, F.R.S.,<sup>2</sup> who, speaking of the luminous envelope of the Sun and its “peculiar curdy appearance,” says :

Arago proposed that this envelope should be called the Photosphere, a name now generally adopted. By the elder Herschel, the surface of this photosphere was compared to mother-of-pearl. It resembles the ocean on a tranquil summer-day, when its surface is slightly crisped by a gentle breeze. Mr Nasmyth has discovered a more remarkable condition than any that had previously been suspected, objects which are peculiarly lens-shaped like “willow leaves,” . . . different in size not arranged in any order, crossing each other in all directions with an irregular motion among themselves. They are seen approaching to and receding from each other, and sometimes assuming new angular positions, so that the appearance has been compared to a dense shoal of fish, which, indeed, they resemble in shape. The size of these objects gives a grand idea of the gigantic scale upon which physical (?) operations are carried out in the sun. They cannot be less than 1,000 miles in length, and from two to three hundred miles in breadth. The most probable conjecture which has been offered respecting those leaf or lens-like objects, is that the photosphere is an immense ocean of gaseous matter [what kind of “matter”?] in a state of intense [apparent] incandescence, and that they are perspective projections of the sheets of flame.

Solar “flames” seen through telescopes are reflections, says Occultism. But the reader has already seen what Occultists have to say to this.

Whatever they [those sheets of flame] may be, it is evident they are the immediate sources of solar heat and light. Here we have a surrounding envelope of photogenic matter,<sup>4</sup> which pendulates with mighty energies, and by communicating its

<sup>1</sup> Commentary on STANZA 4, ante, Vol. 1, p. 162

<sup>2</sup> *Popular Science Review*, Vol. IV p. 148

<sup>3</sup> And the central mass, too, as will be found, or rather the centre of the reflection

<sup>4</sup> This “matter” is just like the reflection in a mirror of the flame from a “photogenic” lampwick

motion to the ethereal medium in stellar space, produces heat and light in far distant worlds. We have said that those forms have been compared to certain organisms, and Herschel says, "Though it would be too daring to speak of such organizations as *partaking of life* [why not?],<sup>1</sup> yet we do know that vital action is competent to develop heat, light, and electricity." Can it be that there is truth in this fine thought? May the pulsing of vital matter in the central sun of our system be the source of all that life which crowds the earth, and without doubt overspreads the other planets, to which the sun is the mighty minister?

Occultism answers these queries in the affirmative; and Science will find this to be the case, one day.

Again, Mr. Hunt writes.

But regarding Life—Vital Force—as a power far more exalted than either light, heat, or electricity, and indeed capable of exerting a controlling power over them all [this is absolutely Occult] . . . we are certainly disposed to view with satisfaction that speculation which supposes the photosphere to be the primary seat of vital power, and to regard with a poetic pleasure that hypothesis which refers the solar energies to Life.<sup>2</sup>

Thus, we have an important scientific corroboration for one of our fundamental dogmas—namely, that (a) the Sun is the store-house of Vital Force, which is the Noumenon of Electricity; and (b) that it is from its mysterious, never-to-be-fathomed depths, that issue those life-currents which thrill through Space, as through the organisms of every living thing on Earth. For see what another eminent Physician says, who calls this, our life-fluid, "Nervous Ether." Change a few sentences in the article, extracts from which now follow, and you have another *quasi-Occult treatise* on Life-Force. It is again Dr. B.W. Richardson, F.R.S., who gives his views as follows on "Nervous Ether," as he has on "Sun-Force" and "Earth-Force."

The idea attempted to be conveyed by the theory is, that between the molecules of the matter, solid or fluid, of which the nervous organisms, and, indeed, of which all the organic parts of a body are composed, there exists a refined subtle medium, vaporous or gaseous, which holds the molecules in a condition for motion upon each other, and for arrangement and rearrangement of form, a medium by and through which all motion is conveyed, by and through which the one organ or part of the body is held in communion with the other parts, by which and through which the outer living world communicates with the living man, a medium, which, being present, enables the phenomena of life to be demonstrated, and which, being universally absent, leaves the body actually dead.

And the whole Solar System falls into Pralaya—the author might have added. But let us read further.

I use the word ether in its general sense as meaning a very light, vaporous or gaseous matter, I use it, in short, as the astronomer uses it when he speaks of the ether of Space, by which he means a subtle but material medium. When I speak of a *nervous ether*, I do not convey that the ether is existent in nervous structure only. I believe truly that is a special part of the nervous organization, but, as nerves pass into

<sup>1</sup> See *Five Years of Theosophy*, p. 258, [1885] for an answer to this speculation of Herschel.

<sup>2</sup> *Pop. Sci. Review*, vol. iv, p. 156.



all structures that have capacities for movement and sensibilities, so the nervous ether passes into all such parts, and as the nervous ether is, according to my view, a direct product from blood, so we may look upon it as a part of the atmosphere of the blood.

The evidence in favour of the existence of an elastic medium pervading the nervous matter and capable of being influenced by simple pressure is all-convincing.

In nervous structure there is, unquestionably, a true nervous fluid, as our predecessors taught.<sup>1</sup> The precise chemical (?)<sup>2</sup> composition of this fluid is not yet well known, the physical characters of it have been little studied. Whether it moves in currents, we do not know, whether it circulates, we do not know, whether it is formed in the centres and passes from them to the nerves, or whether it is formed everywhere where blood enters nerve, we do not know. The exact uses of the fluid we do not consequently know. It occurs to my mind, however, that the veritable fluid of nervous matter is not of itself sufficient to act as the subtle medium that connects the outer with the inner universe of man and animal. I think—and this is the modification I suggest to the older theory—there must be another form of matter present during life, a matter which exists in the condition of vapour or gas, which pervades the whole nervous organism, surrounds as an enveloping atmosphere<sup>3</sup> each molecule of nervous structure, and is the medium of all motion, communicated to and from the nervous centres. When it is once fairly presented to the mind that during life *there is in the animal body a finely diffused form of matter*, a vapour filling every part—and even stored in some parts, a matter constantly renewed by the vital chemistry, a matter as easily disposed of as the breath, after it has served its purpose—a new flood of light breaks on the intelligence.<sup>4</sup>

A new flood of light is certainly thrown on the wisdom of ancient and mediæval Occultism and its votaries. For Paracelsus wrote the same thing more than three hundred years ago, in the sixteenth century, as follows:

The whole of the Microcosm is potentially contained in the *Liquor Vitæ*, a nerve fluid in which is contained the nature, quality, character, and essence of beings.<sup>5</sup>

The *Archæus* is an essence that is equally distributed in all parts of the human body. The *Spiritus Vitæ* takes its origin from the *Spiritus Mundi*. Being an emanation of the latter, it contains the elements of all cosmic influences, and is therefore the cause by which the action of the stars [cosmic forces] upon the invisible body of man [his vital *Linga Sharira*] may be explained.<sup>6</sup>

Had Dr Richardson studied all the secret works of Paracelsus, he would not have been obliged to confess so often, “we do not know,” “it is not known to us,” etc. Nor could he ever have written the following sentence, recanting the best portions of his independent rediscovery:

It may be urged that in this line of thought is included no more than the theory of the existence of the ether supposed to pervade space. It may be said that this universal ether pervades all the organism of the animal body as from without, and as part of every organization. This view would be Pantheism physically discovered,

<sup>1</sup> Paracelsus for one, who called it *Liquor Vitæ*, and *Archæus*.

<sup>2</sup> Alchemical composition, rather.

<sup>3</sup> “This vital force radiates around man like a luminous sphere,” says Paracelsus in *Paragranum*.

<sup>4</sup> *Popular Science Review*, Vol. x, pp. 380-3.

<sup>5</sup> *De Generatione Hominis*.

<sup>6</sup> *De Viribus Membrorum*. See *Life of Paracelsus*, by Franz Hartmann, M.D., F.T.S.

if it were true [11]. It fails to be true because it would destroy the individuality of every individual sense.<sup>1</sup>

We fail to see this, and we know it is not so. Pantheism may be “physically rediscovered.” It was known, seen, and felt by the whole of antiquity. Pantheism manifests itself in the vast expanse of the starry heavens, in the breathing of the seas and oceans, and in the quiver of life of the smallest blade of grass. Philosophy rejects one *finite* and *imperfect* God in the universe, the anthropomorphic deity of the Monotheist as represented by his followers. It repudiates, in its name of *Philo-theo-sophia*, the grotesque idea that Infinite, *Absolute* Deity should, or rather *could*, have any direct or indirect relation to finite illusive evolutions of Matter, and therefore it cannot imagine a universe *outside* that Deity, or the absence of that Deity from the smallest speck of animate or inanimate Substance. [This does not mean that every bush, tree or stone is God or a God, but only that every speck of the manifested material of Kosmos belongs to, and is the Substance of “God,” however low it may have fallen in its cyclic gyration through the Eternities of the Ever-Becoming, and also that every such speck individually, and Kosmos collectively, is an aspect and a reminder of that universal *One Soul*—which Philosophy refuses to call God, thus limiting the eternal and ever-present root and essence.]

Why either the Ether of Space or “Nervous Ether” should “destroy the individuality of every sense,” seems incomprehensible to one acquainted with the real nature of that “Nervous Ether” under its Sanskrit, or rather Esoteric and Kabalistic name Dr. Richardson agrees that

If we did not individually produce the medium of communication between ourselves and the outer world, if it were produced from without and adapted to one kind of vibration alone, there were fewer senses required than we possess for, taking two illustrations only—ether of light is not adapted for sound, and yet we hear as well as see, while air, the medium of motion of sound, is not the medium of light, and yet we see and hear

This is not so The opinion that Pantheism “fails to be true because it would destroy the individuality of every individual sense” shows that all the conclusions of the learned doctor are based on the modern physical theories, though he would fain reform them. But he will find it impossible to do this unless he allows the existence of spiritual senses to replace the gradual atrophy of the physical “We see and hear,” in accordance (of course, in Dr. Richardson’s mind) with the explanations of the phenomena of sight and hearing, afforded by that same Materialistic Science which postulates that we cannot see and hear otherwise. The Occultists and Mystics know better.

<sup>1</sup> Pop Sc Review, loc cit, p 384

The Vedic Âryans were as familiar with the mysteries of sound and colour on the physical plane as are our Physiologists, but they had also mastered the secrets of both on planes inaccessible to the Materialists. They knew of a double set of senses, spiritual and material. In a man who is deprived of one or more senses, the remaining senses become the more developed; for instance, the blind man will recover his sight through the senses of touch, of hearing, etc., and he who is deaf will be able to hear through sight, by *seeing audibly* the words uttered by the lips and mouth of the speaker. But these are cases that belong to the world of Matter still. The spiritual senses, those that act on a higher plane of consciousness, are rejected *a priori* by Physiology, because the latter is ignorant of the Sacred Science. It limits the action of Ether to vibrations, and, dividing it from air—though air is simply *differentiated* and compound Ether—makes it assume functions to fit in with the special theories of the Physiologist. But there is more real Science in the teachings of the *Upanishads*, when these are correctly understood, than the Orientalists, who do not understand them at all, are ready to admit. *Mental as well as physical correlations of the seven senses*—seven on the physical and seven on the mental planes—are clearly explained and defined in the *Vedas*, and especially in the *Anugîtâ*.

The indestructible and the destructible, such is the double manifestation of the Self. Of these the indestructible is the existent [the true essence or nature of Self, the underlying principles], the manifestation as an individual (entity) is called the destructible.<sup>1</sup>

Thus speaks the Ascetic in the *Anugîtâ*, and also

[Every one who is twice-born (initiated) knows such is the teaching of the ancients] Space is the first entity. Now Space [Âkâsha, or the Noumenon of Ether] has one quality and that is stated to be sound only [and the] qualities of sound [are] Shadja, Rishabha, together with Gândhâra, Madhyama, Panchama, and beyond these [should be understood to be] Nishâda and Dhaivata [the Hindu gamut].<sup>2</sup>

These seven notes of the scale are the principles of sound. The qualities of every Element, as of every sense, are septenary, and to judge and dogmatize on them from their manifestation on the material or objective plane—likewise sevenfold in itself—is quite arbitrary. For it is only by the SELF emancipating itself from these seven causes of illusion, that we can acquire the knowledge (Secret Wisdom) of the qualities of objects of sense on their dual plane of manifestation, the visible and the invisible. Thus it is said

Hear me state this wonderful mystery. Hear also the assignment of causes exhaustively. The nose, and the tongue, and eye, and the skin, and the ear as

<sup>1</sup> K. T. Telang's translation, *The Sacred Books of the East*, Vol. VIII, ch. XIII, p. 292

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, ch. XXXV, pp. 384-5

the fifth [organ of sense] mind and understanding,<sup>1</sup> these seven [senses] should be understood to be the causes of (the knowledge of) qualities—Smell, and taste, and colour, sound, and touch as the fifth, the object of the mental operation and the object of the understanding [the highest spiritual sense or perception], these seven are causes of action—He who smells, he who eats, he who sees, he who speaks, and he who hears as the fifth, he who thinks, and he who understands, these seven should be understood to be the causes of the agents—These [the agents] being possessed of qualities (sattva, rajas, tamas), enjoy their own qualities, agreeable and disagreeable.<sup>2</sup>

[The modern commentators, failing to comprehend the subtle meaning of the ancient Scholiasts, take the sentence, “causes of the agents,” to mean “that the powers of smelling, etc., when attributed to the Self, make him appear as an agent, as an active principle” (!), which is entirely fanciful. These “seven” are understood to be the causes of the agents, because “the objects are causes, as their enjoyment causes an impression.” It means esoterically that they, these seven senses, *are caused by the agents*, which are the “deities,” for otherwise what does, or can, the following sentence mean? “Thus,” it is said, “these seven [senses] are the causes of emancipation”—i.e., when these causes are made ineffectual. And, again, the sentence, “among the learned [the wise Initiates] who understand everything, the qualities *which are in the position* [in the nature, rather] *of the deities*, each in its place,” etc., means simply that the “learned understand the nature of the *noumena* of the various phenomena; and that “qualities,” in this instance, mean the qualities of the high Planetary or Elementary Gods or Intelligences, which rule the elements and their *products*, and not at all the “senses,” as the modern commentator thinks. For the learned do not suppose their senses to have aught to do with them, any more than with their SELF.]

Then we read in the *Bhagavad Gîtâ* of Krishna, the Deity, saying :

Only some know me truly—Earth, water, fire, air, space (or Âkâsha, Æther), mind, understanding and egoism [or the perception of all the former on the illusive plane]—this is a lower form of my nature—Know (that there is) another (form of my) nature, and higher than this, which is animate, O you of mighty arms! and by which this universe is upheld—All this is woven upon me, like numbers of pearls upon a thread—I am the taste in water, O son of Kuntî! I am the light of the sun and moon—I am—sound (“i.e., the occult essence which underlies all these and the other qualities of the various things mentioned”—Transl.), in space—the fragrant smell in the earth, refulgence in the fire—etc.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The division of the physical senses into five, comes to us from a great antiquity. But while adopting the number, no modern Philosopher has asked himself how these senses could exist, i.e., be perceived and used in a self-conscious way, unless there were the *sixth* sense, mental perception, to register and record them, and—this for the Metaphysicians and Occultists—the *SEVENTH* to preserve the spiritual fruitage and remembrance thereof, as in a Book of Life which belongs to Karma. The Ancients divided the senses into five, simply because their teachers, the Initiates, stopped at *hearing*, as being that sense which developed on the physical plane, or rather, got dwarfed and limited to this plane, only at the beginning of the Fifth Race. The Fourth Race already had begun to lose the spiritual condition, so pre-eminently developed in the Third Race.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., ch. x, pp. 277-8

<sup>3</sup> *Bhagavad Gîtâ*, ch. vii, *ibid.*, pp. 73-4.

Truly, then, one should study Occult Philosophy before one begins to seek for and verify the mysteries of Nature on its surface alone, as he alone "who knows the truth about the qualities of Nature, who understands the creation of all entities . . . is emancipated" from error. Says the Preceptor .

Accurately understanding the great (tree) of which the unperceived [Occult Nature, the root of all] is the sprout from the seed [Parabrahman], which consists of the understanding [Mahat, or the Universal Intelligent Soul] as its trunk, the branches of which are the great egoism,<sup>1</sup> in the holes of which are the sprouts, namely, the senses, of which the great [occult, or invisible] elements are the flower-bunches,<sup>2</sup> the gross elements [the gross objective matter], the smaller boughs, which are always possessed of leaves, always possessed of flowers which is eternal and the seed of which is the Brahman [the Deity], and cutting it with that excellent sword—knowledge [Secret Wisdom]—one attains immortality and casts off birth and death.<sup>3</sup>

This is the Tree of Life, the Ashvattha tree, AFTER the cutting of which only, MAN, the slave of life and death, can be emancipated.

But the men of Science know nought, nor will they hear of the "Sword of Knowledge" used by the Adepts and Ascetics. Hence the one-sided remarks of even the most liberal among them, based on and flowing from undue importance given to the arbitrary divisions and classification of Physical Science. Occultism heeds them very little, and Nature heeds them still less. The whole range of physical phenomena proceeds from the *Primary* of Ether—Âkâsha, as dual-natured Âkâsha proceeds from undifferentiated *Chaos*, so-called, the latter being the primary aspect of Mûlaprakriti, the Root-Matter and the first abstract Idea one can form of Parabrahman. Modern Science may divide its hypothetically conceived Ether in as many ways as it likes, the *real* Æther of Space will remain as it is throughout. It has its seven "principles," as all the rest of Nature has, and where there was no Ether *there would be no sound*, as it is the vibrating sounding-board in Nature in all its seven differentiations. This is the first mystery the Initiates of old have learned. Our present normal physical senses were, from our present point of view, abnormal in those days of slow and progressive downward evolution and fall into Matter. And there was a day when all that in our modern times is regarded as exceptional, so puzzling to the Physiologists now compelled to believe in them—such as thought-transference, clairvoyance, clairaudience, etc., in short, all that is now called "wonderful and abnormal"—when all that and much more belonged to the senses and faculties common to all humanity. We are, however, cycling back and cycling forward, *i.e.*, that having lost in spirituality what we acquired in physical development until almost the end of

<sup>1</sup> Ahamkâra, I suppose, that "Ego-ship," or "Ahamship," which leads to every error.

<sup>2</sup> The Elements are the five Tanmâtras of earth, water, fire, air and ether, the producers of the grosser elements

<sup>3</sup> *Anugîtâ*, ch. xx, *ibid.*, p. 313

the Fourth Race, we (mankind), are now as gradually and imperceptibly losing in the physical all that we regain once more in the spiritual re-evolution. This process must go on, until the period which will bring the Sixth Root-Race on a line parallel with the spirituality of the Second Race, a long extinct mankind.

But this will hardly be understood at present. We must return to Dr. Richardson's hopeful, though somewhat incorrect hypothesis about "Nervous Ether." Under the misleading translation of the word as "Space," Âkâsha has just been shown in the ancient Hindu system as the "first born" of the One, having but one quality, SOUND, which is septenary. In Esoteric language this One is the "Father" Deity, and Sound is synonymous with the Logos, Verbum, or Son. Whether consciously or otherwise, it must be the latter; and Dr. Richardson, while preaching an Occult doctrine, chooses the lowest form of the septenary nature of that "SOUND," and speculates upon it, adding :

The theory I offer is that the nervous ether is an *animal product*. In different classes of animals it may differ in physical quality so as to be adapted to the special wants of the animal, but essentially it plays one part in all animals, and is produced, in all, in the same way.

Herein lies the nucleus of error leading to all the resultant mistaken views. This "Nervous Ether" is the lowest principle of the Primordial Essence which is *Life*. It is *Animal Vitality* diffused in all Nature, and acting according to the conditions it finds for its activity. It is not an "animal product," but the living animal, the living flower and plant, are *its* products. The animal tissues only absorb it according to their more or less morbid or healthy state—as do *physical* materials and structures (*in their primogenial state, nota bene*)—and, from the moment of the birth of the Entity, are regulated, strengthened, and *fed* by it. It descends in a larger supply to vegetation in the *Sushumnâ* Sun-Ray which lights and feeds the Moon, and it is through her beams that it pours its light upon, and penetrates man and animal, more during their sleep and rest, than when they are in full activity. Therefore Dr. Richardson errs again in stating that :

The nervous ether is not, according to my idea of it, *in itself active, nor an excitant of animal motion in the sense of a force*, but it is essential as supplying the conditions by which the motion is rendered possible [It is just the reverse] It is the conductor of all vibrations of heat, of light, of sound, of electrical action, of mechanical friction<sup>1</sup>. It holds the nervous system throughout in perfect tension, during states of life [true]. By exercise it is disposed of [rather generated] and when demand for it is greater than the supply, its deficiency is indicated by nervous collapse

<sup>1</sup> The conductor in the sense of Upâdhi—a material or physical basis, but, as the second principle of the universal Soul and Vital Force in Nature, it is intelligently guided by the fifth principle thereof

or exhaustion<sup>1</sup> It accumulates in the nervous centres during sleep, bringing them, if I may so speak, to their due tone, and therewith raising the muscles to awakening and renewed life

Just so ; this is quite correct and comprehensible. Therefore :

The body fully renewed by it, presents capacity for motion, fullness of form, *life* The body bereft of it presents inertia, the configuration of shrunken death, *the evidence of having lost something physical that was in it when it lived*

Modern Science denies the existence of a "vital principle." This extract is a clear proof of its grand mistake. But this "physical something" that we call life-fluid—the *Liquor Vitæ* of Paracelsus—has not *deserted the body*, as Dr. Richardson thinks. It has only changed its state from activity to passivity, and has become latent, owing to the too morbid state of the tissues, on which it has hold no longer. Once the *rigor mortis* is absolute, the *Liquor Vitæ* will reawaken into action, and will begin its work on the atoms *chemically*. Brahmā-Vishnu, the Creator and the Preserver of Life, will have transformed himself into Shiva the *Destroyer*.

Lastly Dr. Richardson writes :

The nervous ether may be poisoned, it may, I mean, have diffused through it, by simple gaseous diffusion, other gases or vapours derived from without, it may derive from within products of substances swallowed and ingested, or gases of decomposition produced during disease in the body itself<sup>2</sup>

And the learned gentleman might have added on the same Occult principle: That the "Nervous Ether" of one person can be poisoned by the "Nervous Ether" of another person or by his *auric emanations*. But see what Paracelsus said of this "Nervous Ether".

The Archæus is of a magnetic nature, and attracts or repulses other sympathetic or antipathetic forces belonging to the same plane. The less power of resistance for astral influences a person possesses, the more will he be subject to such influences. The vital force is not enclosed in man, but radiates [within and] around him like a luminous sphere [aura] and it may be made to act at a distance. It may poison the essence of life [blood] and cause diseases, or it may purify it after it has been made impure, and restore the health<sup>3</sup>

That the two, "Archæus" and "Nervous Ether," are identical, is shown by the English Scientist, who says that *generally* the tension of it may be too high or too low ; that it may be so.

Owing to local changes in the nervous matter it invests. Under sharp excitation it may vibrate as if in a storm and plunge every muscle under cerebral or spinal control into uncontrolled motion—unconscious convulsions.

<sup>1</sup> And too great an exuberance of it in the nervous system leads as often to disease and death. If it were the animal system which generated it, such would not be the case, surely. Hence, the latter emergency shows its independence of the system, and its connection with the Sun-Force, as Metcalfe and Hunt explain.

<sup>2</sup> Pop. Sc. Rev., Vol. x, p. 387.

<sup>3</sup> *Paragranum, Life of Paracelsus*, by Dr. F. Hartmann.

This is called nervous excitation, but no one, except the Occultist, knows the reason of such nervous perturbation, or explains the *primary* causes of it. The "principle of Life" may kill *when too exuberant*, as much as when there is too little of it. But this "principle" on the manifested plane, that is to say, our plane, is but the effect and the result of the *intelligent action* of the "Host," or collective Principle, the manifesting LIFE and LIGHT. It is itself subordinate to, and emanates from, the ever-invisible, eternal and Absolute ONE LIFE, in a descending and re-ascending scale of hierarchic degrees, a true septenary ladder, with SOUND, the Logos, at the upper end, and the Vidyā-dharas,<sup>1</sup> the inferior Pitris, at the lower.

Of course, the Occultists are fully aware of the fact that the Vitalist "fallacy," so derided by Vogt and Huxley, is, nevertheless, still countenanced in very high scientific quarters, and, therefore, they are happy to feel that they do not stand alone. Thus, Professor de Quatrefages writes :

It is very true that we do not know *what life is*, but no more do we know *what the force is* that set the stars in motion. Living beings are heavy, and therefore subject to gravitation, they are the seat of numerous and various physico-chemical phenomena which are indispensable to their existence, and which must be referred to the action of etherodynamy [electricity, heat, etc.]. But these phenomena are here manifested under the influence of another force. Life is not antagonistic to the inanimate forces, but it governs and rules their action by its laws.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In a recent work on Symbolism in Buddhism and Christianity—in Buddhism and Roman Catholicism, rather, many later rituals and dogmas in Northern Buddhism, in its *popular exoteric form*, being identical with those of the Latin Church—some curious facts are to be found. The author of this volume, with more pretensions than erudition, has indiscriminately crammed into his work ancient and modern Buddhist teachings, and has sorely confused Lamaism with Buddhism. On page 404 of this volume, called *Buddhism in Christendom, or Jesus the Essene*, our pseudo-Orientalist devotes himself to criticizing the "Seven Principles" of the "Esoteric Buddhists," and attempts to ridicule them. On page 405, the closing page, he speaks enthusiastically of the Vidyādhara, "the seven great legions of dead men made wise." Now, these Vidyādhara, whom some Orientalists call "demi-gods," are in fact, exoterically, a kind of Siddhas, "affluent in devotion," and, esoterically, they are identical with the seven classes of Pitris, one class of which endow man in the Third Race with Self-consciousness, by incarnating in the human shells. The "Hymn to the Sun," at the end of his queer volume of mosaic, which endows Buddhism with a *personal God* (I !), is an unfortunate thrust at the very proofs so elaborately collected by the unlucky author.

Theosophists are fully aware that Mr. Rhys Davids has likewise expressed his opinion on their beliefs. He said that the theories propounded by the author of *Esoteric Buddhism* "were not Buddhism, and were not esoteric." The remark is the result of (a) the unfortunate mistake of writing "Buddhism" instead of "Budhism," or "Budhism," i.e., of connecting the system with Gautama's religion instead of with the Secret Wisdom taught by Krishna, Shankarāchārya, and many others, as much as by Buddha; and (b) of the impossibility of Mr. Rhys Davids knowing anything of the true Esoteric Teachings. Nevertheless as he is the greatest Pāli and Buddhist scholar of the day, whatever he may say is entitled to respectful hearing. But when one who knows no more of exoteric Buddhism on scientific and materialistic lines, than he knows of Esoteric Philosophy, defames those whom he honours with his spite, and assumes with the Theosophists the airs of a profound scholar, one can only smile or—heartily laugh at him.

<sup>2</sup> *The Human Species*, pp. 10, 11



## SECTION 8

### THE SOLAR THEORY

A SHORT ANALYSIS OF THE COMPOUND AND SINGLE ELEMENTS OF SCIENCE  
AS AGAINST THE OCCULT TEACHINGS HOW FAR THIS THEORY, AS GENER-  
ALLY ACCEPTED, IS SCIENTIFIC

IN his reply to Dr. Gull's attack on the theory of Vitality, which is inseparably connected with the Elements of the Ancients in the Occult Philosophy, Professor Beale, the great Physiologist, has a few words as suggestive as they are beautiful.

There is a mystery in life—a mystery which has never been fathomed, and which appears greater, the more deeply the phenomena of life are studied and contemplated. In living centres—far more central than the centres seen by the highest magnifying powers, in centres of living matter, where the eye cannot penetrate, but towards which the understanding may tend—proceed changes of the nature of which the most advanced physicists and chemists fail to afford us the conception nor is there the slightest reason to think that the nature of these changes will ever be ascertained by physical investigation, inasmuch as they are certainly of an order or nature totally distinct from that to which any other phenomenon known to us can be relegated.

This “mystery,” or the origin of the LIFE ESSENCE, Occultism locates in the same Centre as the nucleus of *prima materia* of our Solar System, for they are one.

As says the Commentary.

*The Sun is the heart of the Solar World [System] and its brain is hidden behind the [visible] Sun. Thence, sensation is radiated into every nerve-centre of the great body, and the waves of the life-essence flow into each artery and vein. . . . The planets are its limbs and pulses.*

It has been stated elsewhere<sup>1</sup> that Occult philosophy denies that the Sun is a globe in combustion, but defines it simply as a world, a glowing sphere, the *real* Sun being hidden behind, and the visible Sun being only its reflection, its *shell*. The Nasmyth willow leaves, mistaken by Sir John Herschel for “solar inhabitants,” are the reservoirs of solar vital energy ;

<sup>1</sup> *The Theosophist*, also *Five Years of Theosophy*, p. 258

“ the vital electricity that feeds the whole system ; the sun *in abscondito* being thus the storehouse of our little Kosmos, self-generating its vital fluid, and ever receiving as much as it gives out,” and the *visible* Sun only a *window cut into the real* solar palace and presence, which, however, shews without distortion the interior work

Thus, during the manvantaric solar period, or life, there is a regular circulation of the vital fluid throughout our System, of which the Sun is the heart—like the circulation of the blood in the human body ; the Sun contracting as rhythmically as the human heart does at every return of it Only, instead of performing the round in a second or so, it takes the solar blood ten of its years to circulate, and a whole year to pass through its *auricle* and *ventricle* before it washes the *lungs*, and passes thence back to the great arteries and veins of the System.

This, Science will not deny, since Astronomy knows of the fixed cycle of eleven years when the number of solar spots increases,<sup>1</sup> the increase being *due to the contraction* of the Solar HEART. The Universe, our World in this case, breathes, just as man and every living creature, plant, and even mineral does upon the Earth ; and as our Globe itself breathes every twenty-four hours The dark region is *not* due to the “ absorption exerted by the vapours issuing from the bosom of the sun, and interposed between the observer and the photosphere,” as Father Secchi would have it,<sup>2</sup> nor are the spots formed “ by the matter [heated gaseous matter] itself which the irruption projects upon the solar disk ” The phenomenon is similar to the regular and healthy pulsation of the heart, as the life fluid passes through its hollow muscles. Could the human heart be made luminous, and the living and throbbing organ made visible, so as to have it reflected upon a screen, such as is used by lecturers on Astronomy to show the moon, for instance, then every one would see the Sun-spot phenomena repeated every second, and that they were due to contraction and the rushing of the blood.

We read in a work on Geology that it is the *dream of Science* that .

All the recognized chemical elements will one day be found but modifications of a single material element<sup>3</sup>

Occult Philosophy has taught this since the existence of human speech and language, adding, however, on the principle of the immutable law of

<sup>1</sup> Not only does it not deny the occurrence, though attributing it to a wrong cause, as always, each theory contradicting every other (see the theories of Secchi, of Faye, and of Young), the spots depending on the superficial accumulation of vapours cooler than the photosphere (?), etc., etc., but we have men of Science who *astrologize* upon the spots Professor Jevons attributes all the great periodical commercial crises to the influence of the sun-spots every eleventh cyclic year (See his *Investigations into Currency and Finance*) This is worthy of praise and encouragement surely

<sup>2</sup> *Le Soleil*, II, p 184

<sup>3</sup> *World-Life*, p 48.

analogy, "as it is above, so it is below," another of its axioms, that there is neither Spirit nor Matter, in reality, but only numberless aspects of the One ever-hidden IS, or Sat. The homogeneous primordial Element is *simple* and *single*, only on the terrestrial plane of consciousness and sensation, since Matter, after all, is nothing more than the sequence of our own states of consciousness, and Spirit an idea of psychic intuition. Even on the next higher plane, that *single element* which is defined on our Earth by current Science, as the ultimate undecomposable constituent of some kind of Matter, would be pronounced in the world of a higher spiritual perception to be something very complex indeed. Our purest water would be found to yield, instead of its two declared *simple* elements of oxygen and hydrogen, many other constituents, undreamed of by our modern terrestrial Chemistry. As in the realm of Matter, so in the realm of Spirit, the shadow of that which is cognized on the plane of objectivity exists on that of pure subjectivity. The speck of the perfectly homogeneous Substance, the sarcode of the Hæckelian Moneron, is now viewed as the *archebiosis* of terrestrial existence (Mr. Huxley's protoplasm)<sup>1</sup>, and Bathybius Hæckelii has to be traced to its *pre-terrestrial archebiosis*. This is first perceived by the Astronomers at its third stage of evolution, and in the "secondary creation," so-called. But the students of Esoteric Philosophy understand well the secret meaning of the STANZA ·

Brahma has essentially the aspect of *prakriti*, both evolved and unevolved. Spirit, O twice-born [Initiate], is the leading aspect of Brahma. The next is a two-fold aspect [of Prakriti and Purusha] both evolved and unevolved, and time is the last!<sup>2</sup>

Anu, is one of the names of Brahmâ (as distinct from Brahman, neuter), and it means "atom"; aniyâmsam aniyasâm, "the most atomic of the atomic," the "immutable and imperishable (achyuta) Purushottama."

Surely, then, the elements now known to us—be their number whatever it may—as they are understood and defined at present, are not, nor can they be, the *primordial* Elements. Those were formed from "the curds of the cold radiant Mother" and "the fire-seed of the hot Father," who "are one," or, to express it in the plainer language of modern Science, those Elements had their genesis in the depths of the primordial Fire-mist, the masses of incandescent vapour of the *irresolvable* nebulæ, for, as Professor

<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, as these pages are being written, the "archebiosis of terrestrial existence" has turned, under a somewhat stricter chemical analysis, into a simple precipitate of sulphate of lime—hence, from the scientific standpoint, not even an *organic* substance! *Sic transit gloria mundi!* [So passes away the glory of this world.]

<sup>2</sup> Vishnu Purâna, Wilson, Vol. 1, p. 18, Fitzedward Hall's rendering.

Newcomb shows,<sup>1</sup> resolvable nebulae do not constitute a class of proper nebulae. More than half of those, he thinks, which were at first mistaken for nebulae, are what he calls "starry clusters."

The elements now known have arrived at their state of permanency in this Fourth Round and Fifth Race. They have a short period of rest before they are propelled once more on their upward spiritual evolution, when the "living fire of Orcus" will dissociate the most irresolvable, and scatter them again into the primordial ONE.

Meanwhile the Occultist goes further, as has been shown in the Commentaries on the Seven STANZAS. Hence he can hardly hope for any help or recognition from Science, which will reject both his "anīyāmsam anīyasām," the absolutely spiritual Atom, and his Mānasaputras or Mind-born Men. In resolving the "single material element" into one absolute *irresolvable* Element, Spirit, or Root-Matter, thus placing it at once outside the reach and province of Physical Philosophy—he has, of course, but little in common with the orthodox men of Science. He maintains that Spirit and Matter are two FACETS of the unknowable UNITY, their apparently contrasted aspects depending, (a) on the various degrees of differentiation of Matter, and (b) on the grades of consciousness attained by man himself. This is, however, Metaphysics, and has little to do with Physics—however great in its own terrestrial limitation that physical *Philosophy* may now be.

Nevertheless, once that Science admits, if not the actual existence, at any rate, the possibility of the existence, of a Universe with its numberless forms, conditions, and aspects built out of a "single Substance,"<sup>2</sup> it has to go further. Unless it also admits the possibility of One Element, or the One Life of the Occultists, it will have to hang up that "single Substance,"

<sup>1</sup> *Popular Astronomy*, p. 444

<sup>2</sup> In his *World-Life* (pages 48-9), in the appended footnotes, Professor Winchell says, "It is generally admitted that at excessively high temperatures, matter exists in a state of dissociation—that is, no chemical combination can exist," and, to prove the unity of Matter, would appeal to the spectrum, which in every case of homogeneity will show a *bright* line, whereas in the case of several molecular arrangements existing—in the nebulae say, or a star—"the spectrum should consist of two or three bright lines"! This would be no proof either way to the Physicist-Occultist, who maintains that beyond a certain limit of visible Matter, no spectrum, no telescope and no microscope are of any use. The unity of Matter, of that which is real cosmic Matter to the Alchemist, or "Adam's Earth" as the Kabalists call it, can hardly be proved or disproved, by either the French *savant* Dumas, who suggests "the composite nature" of the "elements" on "certain relations of atomic weights," or even by Mr Crookes' "radiant matter," though his experiments may seem "to be best understood on the hypothesis of the homogeneity of the elements of matter, and the continuity of the states of matter." For all this does not go beyond MATERIAL Matter, so to say, even in what is shown by the spectrum, that modern "eye of Shiva" of physical experiments. It is only of this Matter that H St Claire Deville could say that "when bodies, deemed to be simple, combine with one another, they vanish, they are individually annihilated", simply because he could not follow those bodies in their further transformation in the world of *spiritual* cosmic Matter. Verily Modern Science will never be able to dig deep enough into the cosmological formations to find the Roots of the World-Stuff or Matter, unless she works on the same lines of thought as the mediæval Alchemist did.

especially if limited to only the solar nebulæ, in mid air, like the coffin of Mahomet, though minus the attractive magnet that sustained that coffin. Fortunately for the speculative Physicists, if we are unable to state with any degree of precision what the nebular theory does imply, we have, thanks to Professor Winchell, and several dissident Astronomers, been able to learn what it does not imply.

Unfortunately, this is far from clearing even the most simple of the problems that have vexed, and do still vex, the men of learning in their search after truth. We have to proceed with our enquiries, starting with the earliest hypotheses of modern Science, if we would discover *where* and *why* it sins. Perchance it may be found that Stallo is right, after all, and that the blunders, contradictions and fallacies made by the most eminent men of learning are simply due to their abnormal attitude. They are, and want to remain Materialistic *quand même*, and yet "the general principles of the atomo-mechanical theory—the basis of modern Physics—are *substantially identical* with the cardinal doctrines of ontological Metaphysics." Thus, "the fundamental errors of ontology become apparent in proportion to the advance of physical science."<sup>1</sup> Science is honeycombed with metaphysical conceptions, but the Scientists will not admit the charge, and fight desperately to put atomo-mechanical masks on purely incorporeal and spiritual laws in Nature, on our plane—refusing to admit their substantiality even on other planes, the bare existence of which they reject *a priori*.

It is easy to show, however, how Scientists, wedded to their materialistic views, have, ever since the days of Newton, endeavoured to put false masks on fact and truth. But their task is becoming every year more difficult, and, every year also, Chemistry, beyond all the other sciences, approaches nearer and nearer the realm of the Occult in Nature. It is assimilating the very truths taught by the Occult Sciences for ages, but hitherto bitterly derided. "Matter is eternal," says the Esoteric Doctrine. But the Matter the Occultists conceive of in its *laya*, or zero state, is not the matter of modern Science, not even in its most rarefied gaseous state. Mr. Crookes' "radiant matter" would appear Matter of the grossest kind in the realm of the beginnings, as it becomes pure Spirit before it returns back even to its first point of differentiation. Therefore, when the Adept or Alchemist adds that, though Matter is eternal, for it is PRADHĀNA, yet Atoms are born at every new *Manvantara*, or reconstruction of the universe, it is no such contradiction as a Materialist, who believes in nothing beyond the Atom, might think. There is a difference between *manifested* and *unmanifested* Matter, between *Pradhāna*, the

<sup>1</sup> *Concepts of Modern Physics*, p. vi

beginningless and endless cause, and *Prakriti*, or the manifested effect. Says the Shloka :

That which is the unevolved cause is emphatically called by the most eminent sages, *pradhâna*, original base, which is subtle *prakriti*, viz., that which is eternal and which at once is, and is not, or is mere process<sup>1</sup>

That which in modern phraseology is referred to as Spirit and Matter, is ONE in eternity as the perpetual Cause, and it is neither Spirit nor Matter, but IT—rendered in Sanskrit by TAD, “that”—all that is, was, or will be, all that the imagination of man is capable of conceiving. Even the esoteric Pantheism of Hinduism renders it as no monotheistic Philosophy ever did, for in superb phraseology its Cosmogony begins with the well-known words .

There was neither day nor night, neither heaven nor earth, neither darkness nor light And there was not aught else apprehensible by the senses or by the mental faculties There was then, however, one Brahma, essentially *prakriti* [Nature] and spirit For the two aspects of Vishnu which are other than his supreme essential aspect are *prakriti* and spirit, O Brâhman When these two other aspects of his no longer subsist, but are dissolved, then that aspect whence form and the rest, i.e., creation, proceed anew, is denominated time, O twice-born<sup>2</sup>

It is that which is dissolved, or the illusive *dual* aspect of That, the essence of which is eternally ONE, that we call Eternal Matter, or Substance, formless, sexless, inconceivable, even to our sixth sense or mind,<sup>3</sup> in which, therefore, we refuse to see that which Monotheists call a personal, anthropomorphic God

How are these two propositions—that “Matter is eternal,” and that “the Atom is periodical, and not eternal”—viewed by exact modern Science? The materialistic Physicist will criticize and laugh them to scorn. The liberal and progressive man of Science, however, the true and earnest scientific searcher after truth, such as the eminent Chemist, Prof Crookes, will corroborate the *probability* of the two statements. For hardly had the echo of his lecture on the “Genesis of the Elements” died away—the lecture which, delivered by him before the Chemical Section of the British Association, at the Birmingham meeting in 1887, so startled every evolutionist who heard or read it—than there came another in March, 1888. Once more the President of the Chemical Society brought before the world of Science and the public the fruits of some new discoveries in the realm of Atoms, and these discoveries justified the Occult Teachings in every way. They are more startling even than the statements made by him in the first lecture, and well deserve the attention of every Occultist, Theosophist, and Metaphysician. This is what he says

<sup>1</sup> See *Vishnu Purâna*, Wilson, Vol 1 p 20

<sup>2</sup> Vol 1 p 25, *ibid*, Fitzedward Hall's rendering

<sup>3</sup> See in preceding Section 7, “Life, Force, or Gravity,” quotation from *Anugitâ*.

in his "Elements and Meta-Elements," thus justifying Stallo's charges and prevision, with the fearlessness of a scientific mind which loves Science for truth's sake, regardless of any consequences to his own glory and reputation. We quote his own words :

Permit me, gentlemen, now to draw your attention for a short time to a subject which concerns the fundamental principles of chemistry, a subject which may lead us to admit the possible existence of bodies which, though neither compounds nor mixtures, are not elements in the strictest sense of the word—bodies which I venture to call "meta-elements" To explain my meaning it is necessary for me to revert to our conception of an element What is the criterion of an element? Where are we to draw the line between distinct existence and identity? No one doubts that oxygen, sodium, chlorine, sulphur are separate elements, and when we come to such groups as chlorine, bromine, iodine, etc., we still feel no doubt, although were degrees of "elementicity" admissible—and to that we may ultimately have to come—it might be allowed that chlorine approximates much more closely to bromine than to oxygen, sodium, or sulphur Again, nickel and cobalt are near to each other, very near, though no one questions their claim to rank as distinct elements Still I cannot help asking what would have been the prevalent opinion among chemists had the respective solutions of these bodies and their compounds presented identical colours, instead of colours which, approximately speaking, are mutually complementary Would their distinct nature have even now been recognized? When we pass further and come to the so-called rare earths the ground is less secure under our feet Perhaps we may admit scandium, yttrium, and others of the like sort to elemental rank, but what are we to say in the case of praseo- and neodmium, between which there may be said to exist no well-marked chemical difference, their chief claim to separate individuality being slight differences in basicity and crystallizing powers, though their physical distinctions, as shown by spectrum observations, are very strongly marked? Even here we may imagine the disposition of the majority of chemists would incline toward the side of leniency, so that they would admit these two bodies within the charmed circle Whether in so doing they would be able to appeal to any broad principle is an open question If we admit these candidates, how in justice are we to exclude the series of elemental bodies or meta-elements made known to us by Kruss and Nilson? Here the spectral differences are well marked, while my own researches on didymium show also a slight difference in basicity between some at least of these doubtful bodies In the same category must be included the numerous separate bodies into which it is probable that yttrium, erbium, samarium, and other "elements" commonly so-called—have been and are being split up Where then are we to draw the line? The different groupings shade off so imperceptibly the one into the other that it is impossible to erect a definite boundary between any two adjacent bodies and to say that the body on this side of the line is an element, while the one on the other side is non-elementary, or merely something which simulates or approximates to an element Wherever an apparently reasonable line might be drawn it would no doubt be easy at once to assign most bodies to their proper side, as in all cases of classification the real difficulty comes in when the border-line is approached Slight chemical differences, of course, are admitted, and, up to a certain point, so are well-marked physical differences What are we to say, however, when the only chemical difference is an almost imperceptible tendency for the one body—of a couple or of a group—to precipitate before the other? Again, there are cases where the chemical differences reach the vanishing point, although well-marked physical differences still remain Here we stumble on a new difficulty; in such obscurities what is chemical and what is physical? Are we not entitled to call a slight tendency of a nascent amorphous precipitate

to fall down in advance of another a "physical difference"? And may we not call coloured reactions depending on the amount of some particular acid present and varying, according to the concentration of the solution and to the solvent employed, "chemical differences"? I do not see how we can deny elementary character to a body which differs from another by well-marked colour, or spectrum-reactions, while we accord it to another body whose only claim is a very minute difference in basic powers. Having once opened the door wide enough to admit some spectrum differences, we have to inquire how minute a difference qualifies the candidate to pass? I will give instances from my own experience of some of these doubtful candidates

Here the great Chemist gives several cases of the very extraordinary behaviour of molecules and earths, apparently the same, but which yet, when examined very closely, were found to exhibit differences which, however minute, still show that none of them are *simple* bodies, and that the 60 or 70 elements accepted in chemistry can no longer cover the ground. Their name, apparently, is legion, but as the so-called "periodic theory" stands in the way of an unlimited multiplication of elements, Prof. Crookes is obliged to find some means of reconciling the new discovery with the old theory. "That theory," he says:

Has received such abundant verification that we cannot lightly accept any interpretation of phenomena which fails to be in accordance with it. But if we suppose the elements reinforced by a vast number of bodies slightly differing from each other in their properties, and forming, if I may use the expression, aggregations of *nebulae* where we formerly saw, or believed we saw, separate stars, the periodic arrangement can no longer be definitely grasped. No longer, that is, if we retain our usual conception of an element. Let us, then, modify this conception. For "element" read "elementary group"—such elementary groups taking the place of the old elements in the periodic scheme—and the difficulty falls away. In defining an element, let us take, not an external boundary, but an internal type. Let us say, e.g., the smallest ponderable quantity of yttrium is an assemblage of ultimate atoms almost infinitely more like each other than they are to the atoms of any other approximating element. It does not necessarily follow that the atoms shall all be absolutely alike among themselves. The atomic weight which we ascribed to yttrium, therefore, merely represents a mean value around which the actual weights of the individual atoms of the "element" range within certain limits. But if my conjecture is tenable, could we separate atom from atom, we should find them varying within narrow limits on each side of the mean. The very process of fractionation implies the existence of such differences in certain bodies.

Thus fact and truth have once more forced the hand of "Exact" Science, and compelled it to enlarge its views and change its terms, which, masking the multitude, reduced them to one body—like the Septenary Elohim and their hosts transformed by the materialistic religionists into one Jehovah. Replace the chemical terms "molecule," "atom," "particle," etc., by the words "Hosts," "Monads," "Devas," etc., and one might think the genesis of Gods, the primeval evolution of manvantaric *intelligent* Forces, was being described. But the learned lecturer adds to his descriptive remarks



something still more suggestive, whether consciously or unconsciously, who knoweth? For he says:

Until lately such bodies passed muster as elements. They had definite properties, chemical and physical, they had recognized atomic weights. If we take a pure dilute solution of such a body, yttrium for instance, and if we add to it an excess of strong ammonia, we obtain a precipitate which appears perfectly homogeneous. But if instead we add very dilute ammonia in quantity sufficient only to precipitate one-half of the base present, we obtain no immediate precipitate. If we stir up the whole thoroughly so as to insure a uniform mixture of the solution and the ammonia, and set the vessel aside for an hour, carefully excluding dust, we may still find the liquid clear and bright, without any vestige of turbidity. After three or four hours, however, an opalescence will declare itself, and the next morning a precipitate will have appeared. Now let us ask ourselves, What can be the meaning of this phenomenon? The quantity of precipitant added was insufficient to throw down more than half the yttria present, therefore a process akin to selection has been going on for several hours. The precipitation has *evidently not been effected at random*, those molecules of the base being decomposed which happened to come in contact with a corresponding molecule of ammonia, for we have taken care that the liquids should be uniformly mixed, so that one molecule of the original salt would not be more exposed to decomposition than any other. If, further, we consider the time which elapses before the appearance of a precipitate, we *cannot avoid coming to the conclusion that the action which has been going on for the first few hours is of a selective character*. The problem is not why a precipitate is produced, but what determines or directs some atoms to fall down and others to remain in solution. Out of the multitude of atoms present, *what power is it that directs each atom to choose the proper path?* We may picture to ourselves some directive force passing the atoms one by one in review, selecting one for precipitation and another for solution till all have been adjusted.

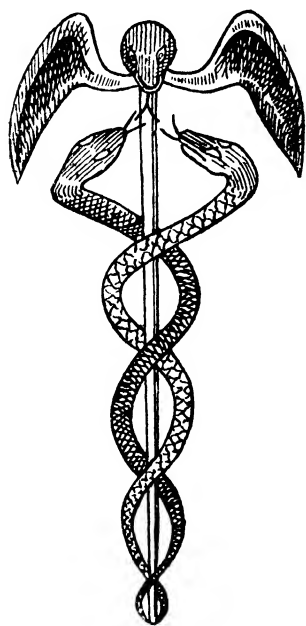
The italics in the above passage are ours. Well may a man of Science ask himself. What power is it that directs each Atom? and what is the meaning of its character being *selective*? Theists would solve the question by answering "God", and would thereby solve nothing philosophically. Occultism answers on its own Pantheistic grounds, and teaches the student about "Gods, Monads, and Atoms". The learned lecturer sees in it that which is his chief concern: the finger-posts and the traces of a path which may lead to the discovery, and the full and complete demonstration, of an homogeneous element in Nature. He remarks.

In order that such a selection can be effected there evidently must be some slight differences between which it is possible to select, and this difference almost certainly must be one of basicity, so slight as to be imperceptible by any test at present known, but susceptible of being nursed and encouraged to a point when the difference can be appreciated by ordinary tests.

Occultism, which knows of the existence and presence in Nature of the One Eternal Element, at the first differentiation of which the roots of the Tree of Life are periodically struck, needs no scientific proofs. It says: Ancient Wisdom has solved the problem ages ago. Aye, earnest, as well as mocking reader, Science is slowly but surely approaching

our domains of the Occult. It is forced by its own discoveries to adopt *nolens volens* our phraseology and symbols. Chemical Science is now compelled, by the very force of things, to accept even our illustration of the evolution of the Gods and Atoms, so suggestively and undeniably figured in the Caduceus of Mercury, the God of Wisdom, and in the allegorical language of the Archaic Sages. Says a Commentary on the Esoteric Doctrine :

*The trunk of the ASVATTHA (the tree of Life and Being, the ROD of the Caduceus) grows from and descends at every Beginning (every new Manvantara) from the two dark wings of the Swan (HANSA) of Life. The two Serpents, the ever-living and its illusion (Spirit and matter) whose two heads grow from the one head between the wings, descend along the trunks interlaced in close embrace. The two tails join on earth (the manifested Universe) into one, and this is the great illusion, O Lanoo !*



Every one knows what the Caduceus is, modified considerably by the Greeks. The original symbol—with the triple head of the serpent—became altered into a rod with a knob, and the two lower heads were separated, thus disfiguring somewhat the original meaning. Yet it is as good an illustration as can be for our purpose, this laya rod, entwined by two serpents. Verily the wonderful powers of the magic Caduceus were sung by all the ancient poets, with a very good reason for those who understood the secret meaning.

Now what says the learned President of the Chemical Society of Great Britain, in that same lecture, which has any reference to, or bearing upon, our above-mentioned doctrine ? Very little ;

only this—and nothing more .

In the Birmingham address already referred to I asked my audience to picture the action of two forces on the original protyle - one being time, accompanied by a lowering of temperature, the other, swinging to and fro like a mighty pendulum, having periodic cycles of ebb and swell, rest and activity, being intimately connected with the imponderable matter, essence, or source of energy we call electricity. Now, a simile like this effects its object if it fixes in the mind the particular fact it is intended to emphasize, but it must not be expected necessarily to run parallel with all the facts. Besides the lowering of temperature with the periodic ebb and flow of electricity, positive or negative, requisite to confer on the newly-born elements their particular atomicity, it is evident that a third factor must be taken into account. Nature does not act on a flat plane, she demands space for her cosmogenic operations, and if we introduce space as the third factor, all appears clear. Instead of a pendulum, which,

though to a certain extent a good illustration, is impossible as a fact, let us seek some more satisfactory way of representing what I conceive may have taken place. Let us suppose the zigzag diagram not drawn upon a plane, but projected in space of three dimensions. What figure can we best select to meet all the conditions involved? Many of the facts can be well explained by supposing the projection in space of Professor Emerson Reynolds' zigzag curve to be a spiral. This figure is, however, inadmissible, inasmuch as the curve has to pass through a point neutral as to electricity and chemical energy twice in each cycle. We must, therefore, adopt some other figure. A figure of eight (8), or lemniscate, will foreshorten into a zigzag just as well as a spiral, and it fulfils every condition of the problem.

A *lemniscate* for the evolution downward, from Spirit into Matter, another form of a *spiral*, perhaps, in its *reinvolutionary* path onward, from Matter into Spirit, and the necessary gradual and final reabsorption into the *laya* state, that which Science calls, in her own way, "the point neutral as to electricity," or the zero point. Such are the Occult facts and statement. They may be left with greatest security and confidence to Science, to be justified some day. Let us hear some more, however, about this primordial genetic type of the symbolical Caduceus.

Such a figure will result from three very simple simultaneous motions. First, a simple oscillation backwards and forwards (suppose east and west); secondly, a simple oscillation at right angles to the former (suppose north and south) of half the periodic time—i.e., twice as fast; and thirdly, a motion at right angles to these two (suppose downwards), which, in its simplest form, would be with unvarying velocity. If we project this figure in space we find on examination that the points of the curves, where chlorine, bromine, and iodine are formed, come close under each other, so also will sulphur, selenium, and tellurium, again, phosphorus, arsenic, and antimony, and in like manner other series of analogous bodies. It may be asked whether this scheme explains how and why the elements appear in this order? Let us imagine a cyclical translation in space, each evolution witnessing the genesis of the group of elements which I previously represented as produced during one complete vibration of the pendulum. Let us suppose that one cycle has thus been completed, the centre of the unknown creative force in its mighty journey through space having scattered along its track the primitive atoms—the seeds, if I may use the expression—which presently are to coalesce and develop into the groupings now known as lithium, beryllium, boron, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, fluorine, sodium, magnesium, aluminium, silicon, phosphorus, sulphur, and chlorine. What is most probably the form of track now pursued? Were it strictly confined to the same plane of temperature and time, the next elementary groupings to appear would again have been those of lithium, and the original cycle would have been eternally repeated, producing again and again the same 14 elements. The conditions, however, are not quite the same. Space and electricity are as at first, but temperature has altered, and thus, instead of the atoms of lithium being supplemented with atoms in all respects analogous with themselves, the atomic groupings which come into being when the second cycle commences, form, not lithium, but its lineal descendant, potassium. Suppose, therefore, the *vis generatrix* [generating force] travelling to and fro in cycles along a lemniscate path, as above suggested, while simultaneously temperature is declining and time is flowing on—variations which I have endeavoured to represent by the downward sink—each coil of the lemniscate track crosses the same vertical line at lower and lower points. Projected in space, the curve shows a central line neutral as far as electricity is concerned, and neutral in chemical properties—positive

electricity on the north, negative on the south. Dominant atomicities are governed by the distance east and west from the neutral centre line, monatomic elements being one remove from it, diatomic two removes, and so on. In every successive coil the same law holds good.

And, as if to prove the postulate of Occult Science and Hindu philosophy, that, at the hour of the Pralaya, the two aspects of the Unknowable Deity, "the Swan in darkness," Prakriti and Purusha, Nature or Matter in all its forms and Spirit, no longer subsist but are *absolutely* dissolved, we learn the conclusive scientific opinion of the great English Chemist, who caps his proofs by saying :

We have now traced the formation of the chemical elements from knots and voids in a primitive, formless fluid. We have shown the possibility, nay, the probability that the atoms are not eternal in existence, but share with all other created beings the attributes of decay and death.

Occultism says *amen* to this, as the scientific "possibility" and "probability" are for it facts, demonstrated beyond the necessity for further proof, or for any extraneous physical evidence. Nevertheless, it repeats with as much assurance as ever. "MATTER IS ETERNAL, becoming atomic (its aspect) only periodically." This is as sure as that the other proposition, which is almost unanimously accepted by Astronomers and Physicists—namely, that the wear and tear of the body of the Universe is steadily going on, and that it will finally lead to the extinction of the Solar Fires and the destruction of the Universe—is quite erroneous on the lines traced by men of Science. There will be, as there ever were in time and eternity, periodical dissolutions of the manifested Universe, such as a partial Pralaya after every Day of Brahmâ, and a Universal Pralaya—the MAHÂ-PRALAYA—only after the lapse of every Age of Brahmâ. But the scientific causes for such dissolution, as brought forward by exact Science, have nothing to do with the true causes. However that may be, Occultism is once more justified by Science, for Prof. Crookes said :

We have shown, from arguments drawn from the chemical laboratory, that in matter which has responded to every test of an element, there are minute shades of difference which may admit of selection. We have seen that the time-honoured distinction between elements and compounds no longer keeps pace with the developments of chemical science, but must be modified to include a vast array of intermediate bodies—"meta-elements." We have shown how the objections of Clerk-Maxwell, weighty as they are, may be met, and finally, we have adduced reasons for believing that primitive matter was formed by the act of a generative force, throwing off at intervals of time atoms endowed with varying quantities of primitive forms of energy. If we may hazard any conjectures as to the source of energy embodied in a chemical atom, we may, I think, premise that the heat radiations propagated outwards through the ether from the ponderable matter of the universe, by some process of nature not yet known to us, are transformed at the confines of the universe into the primary—the essential—motions of chemical atoms, which, the instant they are formed, gravitate inwards, and thus restore to the universe the energy which otherwise would be lost to it.

through radiant heat. If this conjecture be well founded, Sir William Thomson's startling prediction of the final decrepitude of the universe through the dissipation of its energy falls to the ground. In this fashion, gentlemen, it seems to me that the question of the elements may be provisionally treated. Our slender knowledge of these first mysteries is extending steadily, surely, though slowly.

By a strange and curious coincidence even our "Septenary" doctrine seems to force the hand of Science. If we understand rightly, Chemistry speaks of fourteen groupings of primitive atoms—lithium, beryllium, boron, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, fluorine, sodium, magnesium, aluminium, silicon, phosphorus, sulphur and chlorine, and Prof. Crookes, speaking of the "dominant atomicities," enumerates seven groups of these, for he says :

As the mighty focus of creative energy goes round, we see it in successive cycles sowing in one tract of space seeds of lithium, potassium, rubidium, and cæsium, in another tract, chlorine, bromine, and iodine, in a third, sodium, copper, silver, and gold, in a fourth, sulphur, selenium, and tellurium, in a fifth, beryllium, calcium, strontium, and barium, in a sixth, magnesium, zinc, cadmium, and mercury, in a seventh, phosphorus, arsenic, antimony, and bismuth [which makes seven groupings on the one hand. And after sowing] in other tracts the other elements—namely, aluminium, gallium, indium, and thallium, silicon, germanium, and tin, carbon, titanium, and zirconium [he adds] while a natural position near the neutral axis is found for the three groups of elements relegated by Professor Mendeleeff to a sort of Hospital for Incurables—his eighth family.

It might be interesting to compare these seven, and the eighth family of "incurables," with the allegories concerning the seven primitive sons of "Mother, Infinite Space," or Aditi, and the *eighth* son rejected by her. Many a strange coincidence may thus be found between "those intermediate links . . . named meta-elements" or elementoids, and those whom Occult Science names their *Noumenoi*, the intelligent Minds and Rulers of those groupings of Monads and Atoms. But this would lead us too far. Let us be content with finding the confession of the fact that.

This deviation from absolute homogeneity should mark the constitution of these molecules or aggregations of matter which we designate elements and will perhaps be clearer if we return in imagination to the earliest dawn of our material universe, and face to face with the Great Secret, try to consider the processes of elemental evolution.

Thus finally Science, in the person of its highest representatives, in order to make itself clearer to the profane, adopts the phraseology of such old Adepts as Roger Bacon, and returns to the "protyle." All this is hopeful and suggestive of the "signs of the times."

Indeed these "signs" are many and multiply daily; but none are more important than those just quoted. For now the chasm between the Occult "superstitious and *unscientific*" teachings and those of "exact" Science is completely bridged, and one, at least, of the few eminent Chemists of the day

is in the realm of the infinite possibilities of Occultism. Every new step he will take will bring him nearer and nearer to that mysterious Centre, from which radiate the innumerable paths that lead down Spirit into Matter, and which transform the Gods and the living Monads into man and sentient Nature.

But we have something more to say on this subject in the following Section.

## SECTION 9

### THE COMING FORCE

#### ITS POSSIBILITIES AND IMPOSSIBILITIES

SHALL we say that Force is "moving Matter," or "Matter in motion," and a manifestation of Energy ; or that Matter and Force are the phenomenal differentiated aspects of the one primary, undifferentiated Cosmic Substance ?

This query is made with regard to that STANZA which treats of FOHAT and his "Seven brothers or Sons," in other words, of the *cause* and the *effects* of Cosmic Electricity, the latter called in Occult parlance, the seven *primary* forces of Electricity, whose purely phenomenal, and hence *grossest*, effects are alone cognizable by Physicists on the cosmic and especially on the terrestrial plane. These include, among other things, Sound, Light, Colour, etc. Now what does Physical Science tell us of these "Forces" ? SOUND, it says, is a *sensation* produced by the impact of atmospheric molecules on the tympanum, which, by setting up delicate tremors in the auditory apparatus, thus communicate their vibrations to the brain. LIGHT is the *sensation* caused by the impact of inconceivably minute vibrations of ether on the retina of the eye.

So, too, say we. But these are simply the effects produced in our atmosphere and its immediate surroundings, all, in fact, which falls within the range of our terrestrial consciousness. *Jupiter Pluvius* sent his symbol in drops of rain, of water composed, as is believed, of two "elements," which Chemistry dissociates and recombines. The compound molecules are in its power, but their atoms still elude its grasp. Occultism sees in all these Forces and manifestations a ladder, the lower rungs of which belong to exoteric Physics, and the higher are traced to a living, intelligent, invisible Power, which is, as a rule, the unconcerned, but, exceptionally, the conscious, Cause of the sense-born phenomena designated as this or that natural law.

We say and maintain that SOUND, for one thing, is a tremendous Occult power ; that it is a stupendous force, of which the electricity generated by a million of Niagaras could never counteract the smallest potentiality when directed with *Occult Knowledge*. Sound may be produced of such a nature that the pyramid of Cheops would be raised in the air, or that a dying man, nay, one at his last breath, would be revived and filled with new energy and vigour.

For Sound generates, or rather attracts together, the elements that produce an ozone the fabrication of which is beyond Chemistry, but is within the limits of Alchemy. It may even *resurrect* a man or an animal whose astral "vital body" has not been irreparably separated from the physical body by the severance of the magnetic or odic chord. As one saved *thrice from death* by that power, the writer ought to be credited with personally knowing something about it.

And if all this appears too *unscientific* to be even noticed, let Science explain to what mechanical and physical laws, known to it, are due the recently produced phenomena of the so-called Keely motor. What is it that acts as the formidable generator of invisible but tremendous force, of that power which is not only capable of driving an engine of 25 horse-power, but has even been employed bodily to lift the machinery? Yet this is done simply by drawing a fiddle-bow across a tuning fork, as has been repeatedly proven. For the *etheric Force*, discovered by John Worrell Keely, of Philadelphia, well-known in America and Europe, is no *hallucination*. Notwithstanding his failure to utilize it—a failure prognosticated and maintained by some Occultists from the first—the phenomena exhibited by the discoverer during the last few years have been wonderful, almost miraculous, not in the sense of the *supernatural*<sup>1</sup> but of the *superhuman*. Had Keely been permitted to succeed, he might have reduced a whole army to atoms in the space of a few seconds, as easily as he reduced a dead ox to that condition.

The reader is now asked to give serious attention to that newly-discovered potency, which the discoverer has named "Inter-Etheric Force, and Forces."

<sup>1</sup> The word "supernatural" implies *above or outside nature*. Nature and Space are one. Now Space for the metaphysician exists outside any act of sensation, and is a purely subjective representation, notwithstanding the contention of Materialism, which would connect it forcibly with one or another datum of sensation. For our senses, it is *fairly subjective* when independent of anything within it. How then can any phenomenon, or anything else, *step outside, or be performed beyond, that which has no limits*? But when spatial extension becomes simply conceptual, and is thought of in an idea connected with certain actions, as by the Materialists and the Physicists, then again they have hardly a right to define and claim that which can, or cannot, be produced by Forces generated within even limited spaces, as they have not even an approximate idea of what those Forces are.



In the humble opinion of the Occultists, as of his immediate friends, Mr. Keely was, and still is, at the threshold of some of the greatest secrets of the Universe, of that chiefly on which is built the whole mystery of physical Forces, and the Esoteric significance of the "Mundane Egg" symbolism. Occult Philosophy, viewing the manifested and the unmanifested Kosmos as UNITY, symbolizes the ideal conception of the former by that "Golden Egg" with two poles in it. It is the positive pole that acts in the manifested World of Matter, while the negative loses itself in the unknowable Absoluteness of SAT—*Be-ness*<sup>1</sup> Whether this agrees with the philosophy of Mr. Keely, we cannot tell, nor does it really much matter. Nevertheless, his ideas about the ethero-material construction of the Universe look strangely like our own, being *in this respect* nearly identical. This is what we find him saying in an able pamphlet compiled by Mrs. Bloomfield-Moore, an American lady of wealth and position, whose incessant efforts in the pursuit of truth can never be too highly appreciated.

Mr. Keely, in the explanation of the working of his engine, says: "In the conception of any machine heretofore constructed, the medium for inducing a neutral centre has never been found. If it had, the difficulties of perpetual-motion seekers would have ended, and this problem would have become an established and operating fact. It would only require an introductory impulse of a few pounds, on such a device, to cause it to run for centuries. In the conception of my vibratory engine, I did not seek to attain perpetual motion, but a circuit is formed that actually has a *neutral centre*, which is in a condition to be vivified by my vibratory ether, and, while under operation by said substance, is really a machine that is virtually independent of the mass (or globe),<sup>2</sup> and it is the wonderful velocity of the vibratory circuit which makes it so still, with all its perfection, it requires to be fed with the vibratory ether to make it an independent motor. All structures require a foundation in strength according to the weight of the mass they have to carry, but the foundations of the universe rest on a vacuous point far more minute than a molecule, in fact, to express this truth properly, on an *inter-etheric point*, which requires an infinite mind to understand it. To look down into the depths of an etheric centre is precisely the same as it would be to search into the broad space of heaven's ether to find the end, with this difference—that one is the positive field, while the other is the negative field."

This is, as may easily be seen, precisely the Eastern Doctrine. Mr. Keely's inter-etheric point is the *laya*-point of the Occultists; this, however, does not require "an infinite mind to understand it," but only a specific intuition and ability to trace its hiding-place in this world of Matter. Of course, the *laya centre* cannot be produced, but an *inter-etheric vacuum* can be—as is proved by the production of bell-sounds in space. Mr. Keely speaks as an

<sup>1</sup> It is not correct, when speaking of *Idealism*, to show it based upon "the old ontological assumptions that things or entities exist independently of each other, and otherwise than as terms of relations" (Stallo). At any rate, it is incorrect to say so of Idealism in Eastern Philosophy and its cognition, for it is just the reverse.

<sup>2</sup> Independent, in a certain sense, but not *disconnected* with it.

unconscious Occultist, nevertheless, when he remarks, in his theory of planetary suspension<sup>1</sup>

As regards planetary volume, we would ask in a scientific point of view, How can the immense difference of volume in the planets exist without disorganizing the harmonious action that has always characterized them? I can only answer this question properly by entering into a progressive analysis, starting on the rotating etheric centres that were fixed by the Creator<sup>1</sup> with their attractive or accumulative power. If you ask what power it is that gives to each etheric atom its inconceivable velocity of rotation (or introductory impulse), I must answer that no finite mind will ever be able to conceive what it is. The philosophy of accumulation is the only proof that such a power has been given. The area, if we can so speak, of such an atom presents to the attractive or magnetic, the elective or propulsive, all the respective force and all the antagonistic force that characterize a planet of the largest magnitude, consequently, as the accumulation goes on, the perfect equation remains the same. When this minute centre has once been fixed, the power to rend it from its position would necessarily have to be so great as to displace the most immense planet that exists. When this atomic neutral centre is displaced, the planet must go with it. The neutral centre carries the full load of any accumulation from the start, and remains the same, for ever balanced in the eternal space.

Mr. Keely illustrates his idea of "a neutral centre" in this way

We will imagine that, after an accumulation of a planet of any diameter, say, 20,000 miles, more or less, for the size has nothing to do with the problem, there should be a displacement of all the material, with the exception of a crust 5,000 miles thick, leaving an intervening void between this crust and a centre of the size of an ordinary billiard ball, it would then require a force as great to move this small central mass as it would to move the shell of 5,000 miles thickness. Moreover, this small central mass would carry the load of this crust for ever, keeping it equidistant, and there could be no opposing power, however great, that could bring them together. The imagination staggers in contemplating the immense load which bears upon this point of centre, where weight ceases. This is what we understand by a neutral centre.

And this is what Occultists understand by a "laya centre"

The above is pronounced to be "unscientific" by many. But so is everything that is not sanctioned and kept on the strictly orthodox lines of Physical Science. Unless the explanation given by the inventor himself is accepted—and his explanations, being quite *orthodox* from the Spiritual and the Occult standpoints, if not from that of materialistic speculative Science, called exact, are therefore ours in this particular—what can Science answer to *facts* already seen, which it is no longer possible for anyone to deny? Occult Philosophy divulges few of its most important vital mysteries. It drops them like precious pearls, one by one, far and wide apart, and even this only when forced to do so by the evolutionary tidal wave that carries on Humanity slowly, silently, but steadily, toward the dawn of the Sixth Race mankind. For once out of the safe custody of their legitimate heirs and keepers, those mysteries cease to be Occult: they fall into the public domain, and have to

<sup>1</sup> "By Fohat, more likely," would be an Occultist's reply

run the risk of becoming curses more often than blessings in the hands of the selfish—of the *Cains* of the human race. Nevertheless, whenever such individuals as the discoverer of *Etheric Force* are born, men with peculiar psychic and mental capacities,<sup>1</sup> they are generally and more frequently helped, than allowed to go unassisted, groping on their way; if left to their own resources, they very soon fall victims to martyrdom or become the prey of unscrupulous speculators. But they are helped only on the condition that they should not become, whether consciously or unconsciously, an additional peril to their age: a danger to the poor, now offered in daily holocaust by the less wealthy to the very wealthy.<sup>2</sup> This necessitates a short digression and an explanation.

Some twelve years back, during the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, the writer, in answering the earnest queries of a Theosophist, one of the earliest admirers of Mr. Keely, repeated to him what she had heard in quarters, information from which she could never doubt.

It had been stated that the inventor of the "Self-Motor" was what is called, in the jargon of the Kabalists, a "*natural-born* magician." That he was and would remain unconscious of the full range of his powers, and would work out merely those which he had found out and ascertained in his own nature—*firstly*, because, attributing them to a wrong source, he could never give them full sway; and *secondly*, because it was beyond his power to pass to others that which was a *capacity inherent in his own special nature*. Hence, the whole secret could not be made over permanently to anyone, for practical purposes or use.<sup>3</sup>

Individuals born with such a capacity are not very rare. That they are not heard of more frequently is due to the fact that they live and die, in almost every case, in utter ignorance that they are possessed of *abnormal* powers. Mr. Keely possesses powers which are called abnormal, just because they happen to be as little known, in our day, as was the circulation of the blood before Harvey's time. Blood existed, and it behaved as it does at present in the first man born from woman; and so exists and has existed in man that *principle* which can control and guide etheric vibratory Force. At

<sup>1</sup> The reason for such psychic capacities is given farther on

<sup>2</sup> The above was written in 1886, at a time when hopes of success for the "Keely Motor" were at their highest. Every word then said by the writer proved true, and now only a few remarks are added with regard to the failure of Mr. Keely's expectations, so far, a failure now admitted by the discoverer himself. Though, however, the word *failure* is here used, the reader should understand it in a relative sense, for, as Mrs. Bloomfield-Moore explains: "What Mr. Keely does admit is that, baffled in applying vibratory force to mechanics, upon his first and second lines of experimental research, he was obliged either to confess a *commercial* failure, or to try a third departure from his base or principle, seeking success through another channel." And this "channel" is on the *physical* plane.

<sup>3</sup> We learn that these remarks are not applicable to Mr. Keely's latest discovery, time alone can show the exact limit of his achievements.

any rate, it exists in all those mortals whose *Inner Selves* are *primordially connected, by reason of their direct descent, with that group of Dhyân-Chohans* who are called "*the first-born of Ether.*" Mankind, psychically considered, is divided into various groups, each group being connected with one of the Dhyânic Groups that first formed *psychic man* (see paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 in the Commentary to STANZA 7). Mr. Keely—being greatly favoured in this respect, and besides his psychic temperament, being, moreover, intellectually a genius in mechanics—may achieve most wonderful results. He has achieved some already—more than any mortal man, *not initiated into the final Mysteries*, has achieved in this age up to the present day. What he has done is—as his friends justly say of him—certainly quite sufficient "to demolish with the hammer of Science the idols of Science"—the idols of matter with the feet of clay. Nor would the writer for a moment think of contradicting Mrs. Bloomfield-Moore, when, in her paper on "*Psychic Force and Etheric Force,*" she states that Mr. Keely, as a Philosopher :

Is great enough in soul, wise enough in mind, and sublime enough in courage to overcome all difficulties, and to stand at last before the world as the greatest discoverer and inventor in the world

And again she writes :

Should Keely do no more than lead scientists from the dreary realms where they are groping into the open field of elemental force, where gravity and cohesion are disturbed in their haunts and diverted to use, where, from unity of origin, emanates infinite energy in diversified forms, he will achieve immortal fame. Should he demonstrate, to the destruction of materialism, that the universe is animated by a mysterious principle to which matter, however perfectly organized, is absolutely subservient, he will be a greater spiritual benefactor to our race than the modern world has yet found in any man. Should he be able to substitute, in the treatment of disease, the finer forces of nature for the grossly material agencies which have sent more human beings to their graves than war, pestilence and famine combined, he will merit and receive the gratitude of mankind. All this and more will he do, if he and those who have watched his progress, day by day for years, are not too sanguine in their expectations

The same lady, in her pamphlet, *Keely's Secrets*,<sup>1</sup> brings forward the following passage from an article, written in *The Theosophist* a few years ago, by the writer of the present volume :

The author of No. 5 of the pamphlets issued by the Theosophical Publication Society, *What is Matter and What is Force*, says therein, "The men of science have just found out 'a fourth state of matter,' whereas the Occultists have penetrated years ago beyond the sixth, and therefore do not infer, but know of, the existence of the seventh, the last." This knowledge comprises one of the secrets of Keely's so-called "compound secret." It is already known to many that his secret includes "the augmentation of energy," the insulation of the ether, and the adaptation of dynaspheric force to machinery.

<sup>1</sup> *Theosophical Siftings*, Vol. 1, No. 9, p. 13

It is just because Keely's discovery would lead to a knowledge of one of the most Occult secrets, a secret which can never be allowed to fall into the hands of the masses, that his failure to push his discoveries to their logical end seems certain to Occultists. But of this more presently. Even in its limitations this discovery may prove of the greatest benefit. For :

Step by step, with a patient perseverance which some day the world will honour, this man of genius has made his researches, overcoming the colossal difficulties which again and again raised up in his path what seemed to be (to all but himself) insurmountable barriers to further progress but never has the world's index finger so pointed to an hour when all is making ready for the advent of the new form of force that mankind is waiting for. Nature, always reluctant to yield her secrets, is listening to the demands made upon her by her master, necessity. The coal mines of the world cannot long afford the increasing drain made upon them. Steam has reached its utmost limits of power, and does not fulfil the requirements of the age. It knows that its days are numbered. Electricity holds back, with bated breath, dependent upon the approach of her sister colleague. Air ships are riding at anchor, as it were, waiting for the force which is to make aerial navigation something more than a dream. As easily as men communicate with their offices from their homes by means of the telephone, so will the inhabitants of separate continents talk across the ocean. Imagination is palsied when seeking to foresee the grand results of this marvellous discovery, when once it is applied to art and mechanics. In taking the throne which it will force steam to abdicate, dynaspheric force will rule the world with a power so mighty in the interests of civilization, that no finite mind can conjecture the results. Laurence Oliphant, in his preface to *Scientific Religion*, says "A new moral future is dawning upon the human race—one, certainly, of which it stands much in need." In no way could this new moral future be so widely, so universally, commenced as by the utilizing of dynaspheric force to beneficial purposes in life.<sup>1</sup>

The Occultists are ready to admit all this with the eloquent writer. Molecular vibration is, undeniably, "Keely's legitimate field of research," and the discoveries made by him will prove wonderful—yet *only in his hands and through himself*. The world so far will get but that with which it can be safely entrusted. The truth of this assertion has, perhaps, not yet quite dawned upon the discoverer himself, since he writes that he is absolutely certain that he will accomplish all that he has promised, and that he will then give it out to the world, but it must dawn upon him, and at no very far distant date. And what he says in reference to his work is a good proof of it.

In considering the operation of my engine, the visitor, in order to have even an approximate conception of its *modus operandi*, must discard *all thought of engines that are operated upon the principle of pressure and exhaustion, by the expansion of steam or other analogous gas which impinges upon an abutment, such as the piston of a steam-engine*. My engine has neither piston nor eccentrics, nor is there one grain of pressure exerted in the engine, whatever may be the size or capacity of it. My system, in every part and detail, both in the developing of my power and in every branch of its utilization, is *based and founded on sympathetic vibration*. In no other way would it be possible to awaken or develop my force, and equally impossible would

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., pp 16-17

it be to operate my engine upon any other principle      This, however, is the true system, and henceforth all my operations will be conducted in this manner—that is to say, my power will be generated, my engines run, my cannon operated *through a wire*. It has been only after years of incessant labour, and the making of almost innumerable experiments, involving not only the construction of a great many most peculiar mechanical structures, and the closest investigation and study of the phenomenal properties of the substance “ether,” *per se*, produced, that I have been able to dispense with complicated mechanism, and to obtain, as I claim, *mastery over the subtle and strange force with which I am dealing*<sup>1</sup>

The passages underlined by us, are those which bear directly on the Occult side of the application of the vibratory Force, that which Mr Keely calls “sympathetic vibration.” The “wire” is already a step below, or downward from the pure Etheric plane into the Terrestrial. The discoverer has produced marvels—the word “miracle” is not too strong—when acting through the inter-etheric Force alone, the fifth and sixth principles of Âkâsha. From a generator six feet long, he has come down to one “no larger than an old-fashioned silver watch”; and this by itself is a miracle of *mechanical*, but not of spiritual, genius. As was well said by his great patroness and defender, Mrs. Bloomfield Moore

The two forms of force which he has been experimenting with, and the phenomena attending them, are the very antithesis of each other

One was generated and acted upon by and through himself. No one, who should have repeated the thing done by himself, *could have produced the same results*. It was truly “Keely’s ether” that acted, while Smith’s or Brown’s ether would have remained for ever barren of results. For Keely’s difficulty has hitherto been to produce a machine which would develop and regulate the “force” without the intervention of any “will power” or personal influence of the operator, whether conscious or unconscious. In this he has failed, so far as others were concerned, for *no one but himself* could operate on his “machines”. Occultly this was a far more advanced achievement than the “success” which he anticipates from his “wire,” but the results obtained from the *fifth and sixth planes* of the Etheric, or Astral, Force, *will never be permitted to serve for purposes of commerce and traffic*. That Keely’s organism is directly connected with the production of his marvellous results is proven by the following statement, emanating from one who knows the great discoverer intimately.

At one time the shareholders of the “Keely Motor Co.” put a man in his workshop for the express purpose of discovering his secret. After six months of close watching, he said to J W Keely one day “I know how it is done, now”. They had been setting up a machine together, and Keely was manipulating the stop-cock which turned the force on and off. “Try it, then,” was the answer. The man turned the

<sup>1</sup> Ibid, p 18

cock, and nothing came. "Let me see you do it again," the man said to Keely. The latter complied, and the machinery operated at once. Again the other tried, but without success. Then Keely put his hand on his shoulder and told him to try once more. He did so, with the result of an instantaneous production of the current.

This fact, if true, settles the question.

We are told that Mr. Keely defines electricity "as a certain form of atomic vibration." In this he is quite right; but this is Electricity on the terrestrial plane, and through terrestrial correlations. He estimates—

Molecular vibrations at	100,000,000	per second
Inter-molecular	300,000,000	" "
Atomic	900,000,000	" "
Inter-atomic	2,700,000,000	" "
Ætheric	8,100,000,000	" "
Inter-Ætheric	24,300,000,000	" "

This proves our point. There are no vibrations that could be counted or even estimated at an *approximate* rate beyond "the realm of the *Fourth Son of Fohat*," to use an Occult phrase, or that motion which corresponds to the formation of Prof. Crookes' radiant matter, lightly called some years ago the "fourth state of matter"—on *this our plane*.

If the question is asked why Mr. Keely was not allowed to pass a certain limit, the answer is easy, it was because that which he has unconsciously discovered is the terrible sidereal Force, known to, and named by the Atlanteans MASH-MAK, and by the Âryan Rishis in their *Astra Vidyâ* by a name that we do not like to give. It is the *Vril* of Bulwer Lytton's *Coming Race*, and of the coming Races of our mankind. The name *Vril* may be a fiction, the Force itself is a fact, as little doubted in India as is the existence of the Rishis, since it is mentioned in all the secret books.

It is this vibratory Force, which, when aimed at an army from an *Agni-ratha*,<sup>1</sup> fixed on a flying vessel, a balloon, according to the instructions found in *Astra Vidyâ*, would reduce to ashes 100,000 men and elements, as easily as it would a dead rat. It is allegorized in the *Vishnu Purâna* in the *Râmâyana* and other works, in the fable about the sage Kapila whose "*glance made a mountain of ashes of King Sagara's 60,000 sons*," and which is explained in the Esoteric Works, and referred to as the *Kapilâksha*—Kapila's Eye.

And is it this Satanic Force that our generations are to be allowed to add to their stock of Anarchist's baby-toys, known as melenite, dynamite clock-work, explosive oranges, "flower baskets," and such other innocent names? Is it this destructive agency, which, once in the hands of some modern Attila, a bloodthirsty Anarchist, for instance, would in a few days reduce Europe to

<sup>1</sup> Agni = fire, ratha = chariot

its primitive chaotic state, with no man left alive to tell the tale—is it this Force which is to become the common property of all men alike ?

What Mr. Keely has already done is grand and wonderful in the extreme ; there is enough work before him in the demonstration of his new system to “ humble the pride of those scientists who are materialistic, by revealing those mysteries which lie behind the world of matter,” without, *nolens volens*, revealing it to all. For surely Psychics and Spiritualists, of whom there are a good number in European armies, would be the first personally to experience the fruits of the revelation of such mysteries. Thousands of them would speedily find themselves in blue Ether, perhaps with the populations of whole countries to keep them company, were such a Force to be even entirely discovered, let alone made publicly known. The discovery in its completeness is by several thousand—or shall we say hundred thousand—years too *pre-mature*. It will be in its appointed place and time only when the great roaring flood of starvation, misery, and underpaid labour ebbs back again—as it will when the just demands of the many are at last happily attended to ; when the proletariat exists but in name, and the pitiful cry for bread, that rings unheeded throughout the world, has died away. This may be hastened by the spread of learning, and by new openings for work and emigration, with better prospects than now exist, *and on some new continent that may appear*. Then only will Keely’s Motor and Force, as *originally contemplated* by himself and his friends, be in demand, because *it will then be more needed by the poor than by the wealthy*.

Meanwhile the Force he has discovered will work through wires and, if he succeeds, this will be quite sufficient to make of him the greatest discoverer of the age in the present generation

What Mr. Keely says of *Sound* and *Colour* is also correct from the Occult standpoint. Hear him talk as though he were the nursling of the “ Gods-Revealers,” and as if he had gazed all his life into the depths of Father-Mother Æther.

In comparing the tenuity of the atmosphere with that of the etheric flows, obtained by his invention for breaking up the molecules of air by vibration, Keely says :

It is as platinum to hydrogen gas. Molecular separation of air brings us to the first sub-division only, inter-molecular, to the second, atomic, to the third, inter-atomic, to the fourth, etheric, to the fifth, and inter-etheric, to the sixth sub-division, or positive association with luminiferous ether<sup>1</sup>. In my introductory argument I have contended that this is the vibratory envelope of all atoms. In my definition of atom I do not confine myself to the sixth sub-division where this luminiferous ether is developed.

<sup>1</sup> This is also the division made by the Occultists, under other names.



in its crude form, as far as my researches prove<sup>1</sup> I think this idea will be pronounced by the physicists of the present day, a wild freak of the imagination. Possibly, in time, a light may fall upon this theory that will bring its simplicity forward for scientific research. At present I can only compare it to some planet in a dark space, where the light of the sun of science has not yet reached it. I assume that sound, like odour, is a real substance of unknown and wonderful tenuity, emanating from a body where it has been induced by percussion and throwing out absolute corpuscles of matter, inter-atomic particles, with velocity of 1,120 feet per second, *in vacuo* 20,000. The substance which is thus disseminated is a part and parcel of the mass agitated, and, if kept under this agitation continuously, would, in the course of a certain cycle of time, become thoroughly absorbed by the atmosphere, or, more truly, would pass through the atmosphere to an elevated point of tenuity corresponding to the condition of subdivision that governs its liberation from its parent body. The sounds from vibratory forks, set so as to produce etheric chords, while disseminating their tones (compound), permeate most thoroughly all substances that come under the range of their atomic bombardment. The clapping of a bell *in vacuo* liberates these atoms with the same velocity and volume as one in the open air, and were the agitation of the bell kept up continuously for a few millions of centuries it would thoroughly return to its primitive element, and, if the chamber were hermetically sealed, and strong enough, the vacuous volume surrounding the bell would be brought to a pressure of many thousands of pounds to the square inch, by the tenuous substance evolved. In my estimation, sound truly defined is the disturbance of atomic equilibrium, rupturing actual atomic corpuscles, and the substance thus liberated must certainly be a certain order of etheric flow. Under these conditions, is it unreasonable to suppose that, if this flow were kept up, and the body thus robbed of its element, it would in time disappear entirely? All bodies are formed primitively from this highly tenuous ether, animal, vegetable, and mineral, and they are only returned to their high gaseous condition when brought under a state of differential equilibrium. As regards odour, we can only get some definite idea of its extreme and wondrous tenuity by taking into consideration that a large area of atmosphere can be impregnated for a long series of years from a single grain of musk, which, if weighed after that long interval, will be found to be not appreciably diminished. The great paradox attending the flow of odorous particles is that they can be held under confinement in a glass vessel! Here is a substance of much higher tenuity than the glass that holds it, and yet it cannot escape. It is as a sieve with its meshes large enough to pass marbles, and yet holding fine sand which cannot pass through, in fact, a molecular vessel holding an atomic substance. This is a problem that would confound those who stop to recognize it. But infinitely tenuous as odour is, it holds a very crude relation to the substance of sub-division that governs a magnetic flow (a flow of sympathy, if you please to call it so). This sub-division comes next to sound, but is above sound. The action of the flow of a magnet coincides somewhat to the receiving and distributing portion of the human brain, giving off at all times a depreciating ratio of the amount received. It is a grand illustration of the control of mind over matter, which gradually depreciates the physical till dissolution takes place. The magnet on the same ratio gradually loses its power and becomes inert. If the relations that exist between mind and matter could be equated and so held, we would live on in our physical state eternally, as there would be no physical depreciation. But this physical depreciation leads, at its terminus, to the source of a much higher development—viz., the liberation of pure ether from the crude molecular, which, in my estimations, is to be much desired.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Quite so, since there is the seventh beyond, which begins the same enumeration from the first to the last, on another and higher plane.

<sup>2</sup> From Mrs. Bloomfield-Moore's paper, *The New Philosophy*.

It may be remarked that, save for a few small divergencies, no Adept nor Alchemist could have better explained these theories, *in the light of modern Science*, however much the latter may protest against these novel views. In all its fundamental principles, if not in its details, this is *Occultism pure and simple*; and moreover, it is modern *Natural Philosophy* as well.

This "new Force," or whatever Science may call it, the effects of which are undeniable—as is admitted by more than one Naturalist and Physicist who has visited Mr. Keely's laboratory and personally witnessed its tremendous effects—what is it? Is it a "mode of motion," also, *in vacuo*, since there is no Matter to generate it except *Sound*—another "mode of motion," no doubt, a *sensation* caused, like Colour, by vibrations? Fully as we believe in these vibrations as the proximate, the immediate, cause of such sensations, we as absolutely reject the one-sided scientific theory that there is *no factor* to be considered as external to us, other than etheric or atmospheric vibrations<sup>1</sup>

There is a *transcendental* set of causes put in motion, so to speak, in the occurrence of these phenomena, which, *not being in relation to our narrow range of cognition*, can only be understood and traced to their source and their nature, by the spiritual faculties of the Adept. They are, as Asclepios puts it to the King, "incorporeal corporealities," such as "appear in the mirror," and "abstract forms" that we see, hear, and smell, in our dreams and visions. What have the "modes of motion," light, and ether to do with these? Yet we see, hear, smell and touch them, *ergo* they are as much *realities* to us in our dreams, as any other thing on this plane of *Mâyâ*

<sup>1</sup> In this case the American Substantialists are not wrong, though they are too anthropomorphic and material in their views for these to be accepted by Occultists, when they argue through Mrs M S Organ, M D, that

There must be positive entitative properties in objects which have a constitutional relation to the nerves of animal sensations, or there can be no perception. No impression of any kind can be made upon brain, nerve, or mind—no stimulus to action—unless there is an actual and direct communication of a substantial force. ["Substantial" as far as it appears, in the usual sense of the word, in this universe of *illusion* and *Mâyâ*, of course, not IN REALITY.] That force may be the most refined and sublimated immaterial Entity [?] Yet it must exist, for no sense, element, or faculty of the human being can have a perception, or be stimulated into action, without some substantial force coming in contact with it. This is the fundamental law pervading the whole organic and mental world. In the true philosophical sense there is no such thing as independent action for every force or substance is correlated to some other force or substance. We can with just as much truth and reason assert that no substance possesses any inherent gustatory property or any olfactory property—that taste and odour are simply sensations caused by vibrations, and hence mere illusions of animal perceptions.

## SECTION 10

### ON THE ELEMENTS AND ATOMS

WHEN the Occultist speaks of "Elements," and of human Beings who lived during those geological ages, the duration of which it is found as impossible to determine—according to the opinion of one of the best English Geologists<sup>1</sup>—as the nature of Matter, it is because he knows what he is talking about. When he says Man and Elements, he means neither "man" in his present physiological and anthropological form, nor the elemental Atoms, those hypothetical conceptions, existing at present in scientific minds, the entitative abstractions of Matter in its highly attenuated state, nor, again, does he mean the compound Elements of Antiquity. In Occultism the word *Element* in every case means *rudiment*. When we say "Elementary Man," we mean either the proemial, incipient sketch of man, in its unfinished and undeveloped condition, hence in that form which now lies latent in physical man during his life-time, and takes shape only occasionally and under certain conditions, or, that form which for a time survives the material body, and which is better known as an Elementary<sup>2</sup>. With regard to Element, when the term is used metaphysically, it means, in distinction to the mortal, the incipient Divine Man, and, in its physical usage, it means inchoate Matter in its first undifferentiated condition, or in the *Laya* state, the eternal and *normal* condition of Substance, which differentiates only periodically, during that differentiation, Substance is really in an *abnormal* state—in other words, it is but a transitory illusion of the senses.

As to the "Elemental Atoms," so-called, the Occultists refer to them by that name with a meaning analogous to that which is given by the Hindu to Brahmâ, when he calls him ANU, the "Atom." Every Elemental Atom, in search of which more than one Chemist has followed the path indicated by

<sup>1</sup> In answer to a friend, that eminent Geologist writes "I can only say, in reply to your letter, that it is at present, and perhaps always will be, IMPOSSIBLE to reduce, even approximately, geological time into years, or even into millenniums." (Signed, William Pengelly, F.R.S.)

<sup>2</sup> Plato, in speaking of the irrational, turbulent Elements, "composed of fire, air, water, and earth," means Elementary Dæmons. (See *Timæus*)

the Alchemists, is, in their firm belief, when not *knowledge*, a SOUL, not necessarily a disembodied Soul, but a *Jiva* as the Hindus call it, a centre of POTENTIAL VITALITY, with latent intelligence in it, and, in the case of compound Souls, an intelligent active EXISTENCE, from the highest to the lowest order, a form composed of more or less differentiations. It requires a Metaphysician—and an Eastern Metaphysician—to understand our meaning. All those Atom-Souls are differentiations from the ONE, and are in the same relation to it as is the *divine Soul*, Buddhi, to its informing and inseparable Spirit, *Âtmâ*.

Modern Physics, in borrowing from the Ancients their Atomic Theory, forgot one point, the most important point of the doctrine, hence they have got only the husks and will never be able to get the kernel. In adopting physical Atoms, they omitted the suggestive fact that, from Anaxagoras to Epicurus, to the Roman Lucretius, and finally even to Galileo, all these Philosophers believed more or less in *animated* Atoms, not in invisible specks of so-called "brute" matter. According to them, rotatory motion was generated by larger (read, more divine and pure) Atoms forcing other Atoms downwards, the lighter ones being simultaneously thrust upward. The Esoteric meaning of this is the ever cyclic curve of differentiated Elements downward and upward through intercylic phases of existence, until each again reaches its starting-point or birthplace. The idea was metaphysical as well as physical; the hidden interpretation embracing Gods or Souls, in the shape of Atoms, as the *causes* of all the *effects* produced on Earth by the *secretions* from the divine bodies.<sup>1</sup> No Ancient Philosopher, not even the Jewish Kabalists, ever dissociated Spirit from Matter, or Matter from Spirit. Everything originated in the ONE, and, proceeding from the One, must finally return to the One.

Light becomes heat, and consolidates into fiery particles, which, from being ignited, become cold, hard particles, round and smooth. And this is called Soul, imprisoned in its robe of matter.<sup>2</sup>

*Atoms* and *Souls* were synonymous in the language of the Initiates. The doctrine of "whirling Souls," Gilgulim, in which so many learned Jews have believed,<sup>3</sup> had no other meaning esoterically. The learned Jewish Initiates never meant Palestine alone by the Promised Land, but they meant the same *Nirvâna* as do the learned Buddhist and Brâhman—the bosom of the Eternal ONE, symbolized by that of Abraham, and by Palestine as its substitute on Earth.

<sup>1</sup> Plato in the *Timæus* uses the word "secretions" of turbulent Elements

<sup>2</sup> Valentinus' *Esoteric Treatise on the Doctrine of Gilgul*

<sup>3</sup> See Mackenzie's *Royal Masonic Cyclopædia*, pp 250-1

[Surely no *educated Jew* ever believed this allegory in its *literal* sense, that the bodies of Jews contain within them a principle of Soul which cannot rest, if the bodies are deposited in a foreign land, until, by a process called the “whirling of the Soul” the immortal particle reaches once more the sacred soil of the “Promised Land.”<sup>1</sup> The meaning of this is evident to an Occultist. The process was supposed to be accomplished by a kind of metempsychosis, the psychic spark being conveyed through bird, beast, fish, and the most minute insect.<sup>2</sup> The allegory relates to the *atoms of the body*, each of which has to pass through every form, before all reach the final state, which is the first starting-point of the departure of every Atom—its primitive *laya* state. But the primitive meaning of Gilgulim, or the “Revolution of Souls,” was the idea of the reincarnating Souls or Egos. “All the Souls go into the Gilgulah,” into a cyclic or revolving process, *i.e.*, they all proceed on the cyclic path of re-births. Some Kabbalists interpret this doctrine to mean only a kind of purgatory for the souls of the wicked. But this is not so.]

The passage of the SOUL-ATOM “through the seven Planetary Chambers” had the same metaphysical and physical meaning. It had the latter when it was said to dissolve into Ether. Even Epicurus, the *model Atheist* and Materialist, knew so much and believed so much in the ancient Wisdom, that he taught that the Soul—entirely distinct from immortal Spirit, when the former is enshrined *latent* in it, as it is in every atomic speck—was composed of a fine, tender essence, formed from the *smoothest, roundest and finest atoms*.<sup>3</sup>

And this shows that the ancient Initiates, who were followed more or less closely by all profane Antiquity, meant by the term “ATOM,” a Soul, a Genius or Angel, the first-born of the ever-concealed CAUSE of all causes; and in this sense their teachings become comprehensible. They asserted, as do their successors, the existence of Gods and Genii, Angels or “Demons,” not outside, nor independent of, the Universal *Plenum*, but within it. Only this *Plenum*, during the life-cycles, is infinite. They admitted and taught a good deal of that which modern Science now teaches—namely, the existence of a primordial World-Stuff or Cosmic Substance, ever and eternally homogeneous, except during its periodic existence, then, universally diffused throughout infinite Space, it differentiates, and gradually forms sidereal bodies from itself. They taught the revolution of the Heavens, the Earth’s rotation, the Heliocentric System, and the Atomic Vortices—Atoms being in reality Souls and Intelligences. These “Atomists” were spiritual, most transcendental, and philosophical Pantheists. It is not they who would have ever conceived or dreamed

<sup>1</sup> See *Isis Unveiled*, II, p. 152    <sup>2</sup> See Mackenzie, *ibid*, *sub voc*    <sup>3</sup> See *Isis Unveiled*, I, p. 317.

that monstrous contrasted progeny, the nightmare of our modern civilized Race: *inanimate* material and self-guiding Atoms, on the one hand, and an extra-Cosmic God on the other.

It may be useful to show what the Monad was, and what its origin, in the teachings of the old Initiates.

Modern exact Science, as soon as it began to grow out of its teens, perceived the great, and to it hitherto *esoteric*, axiom, that nothing, whether in the spiritual, psychic, or physical realm of Being, could come into existence out of nothing. There is no cause in the manifested Universe without its adequate effects, whether in Space or Time ; nor can there be an effect without its primal cause, which itself owes its existence to a still higher one—the final and absolute Cause having to remain to man for ever an incomprehensible CAUSELESS CAUSE. But even this is no solution, and must be viewed, if at all, from the highest philosophical and metaphysical standpoints, otherwise the problem had better be left unapproached. It is an abstraction, on the verge of which human reason—however trained in metaphysical subtleties—trembles, threatening to collapse. This may be demonstrated to any European, who would undertake to solve the problem of existence, by the articles of faith of the true Vedântin for instance. Let him read and study the sublime teachings of Shankarâchârya, on the subject of Soul and Spirit, and the reader will realize what is now said.<sup>1</sup>

While the Christian is taught that the human Soul is a breath of God, being created by him for sempiternal existence, having a beginning, *but no end*—and therefore never to be called eternal—the Occult Teaching says : *Nothing is created, it is only transformed*. Nothing can manifest itself in this Universe—from a globe down to a vague, rapid thought—that was not in the Universe already, everything on the subjective plane is an eternal *is*, as everything on the objective plane is an *ever-becoming*—because all is transitory.

The Monad—a truly “indivisible thing,” as defined by Good, who did not give it the sense we now do—is here rendered as the Âtmâ, in conjunction with *Buddhi* and the higher Manas. This trinity is one and eternal, the latter being absorbed in the former at the termination of all conditioned and *illusive* life. The Monad, then, can be traced through the course of its pilgrimage and in its changes of transitory vehicles, only from the incipient stage of the manifested Universe. In Pralaya, the intermediate period between two Manvantaras, it loses its name, as it loses it when the real One Self of man

<sup>1</sup> *Viveka Chûdâmani*, translated by Mohini M Chatterji, as *The Crest-Jewel of Wisdom*. See *The Theosophist*, Oct 1885 to Aug., 1886

merges INTO BRAHMAN, in cases of high Samādhi (the *Turiya* state), or final Nirvāṇa ; in the words of Shankara :

When the disciple having attained that primeval consciousness, absolute bliss, of which the nature is truth, which is without form and action, abandons this illusive body that has been assumed by the *Âtmâ* just as an actor (abandons) the dress (put on)

For *Buddhi*, the *Ânandamaya Sheath*, is but a mirror which reflects absolute bliss ; and, moreover *that reflection* itself is yet not free from ignorance, and is *not* the Supreme Spirit, since it is subject to conditions, is a spiritual modification of *Prakriti*, and is an effect ; *Âtmâ* alone is the one real and eternal substratum of all, the Essence and Absolute Knowledge, the *Kshetrajna*.

[Now that the Revised Version of the Gospels has been published and the most glaring mistranslations of the old versions are corrected, one can understand better the words in *1 John* v, 6: "It is the Spirit that beareth witness because the Spirit is truth." The words that follow in the mistranslated version about the "three that bear record [witnesses]," hitherto supposed to stand for "the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost." [v. 7] show the real meaning of the writer very clearly, thus still more forcibly identifying his teaching in this respect with that of Shankarâchârya. For what can the sentence mean, "there are three that bear witness . . . the spirit and the water and the blood" [v. 8]—if it bears no relation to, nor connection with, the more philosophical statement of the great Vedântin teacher, who, speaking of the Sheaths—the principles in man—*Jiva*, *Vijnânamaya*, etc., which are, in their physical manifestation, "*Water and Blood*" or Life, adds that *Âtmâ*, Spirit, alone is what remains after the subtraction of the Sheaths and that it is the ONLY WITNESS, or synthesized unity. The less spiritual and philosophical school, solely with an eye to a Trinity, made three witnesses out of "one," thus connecting it more with Earth than with Heaven.]

[It is called in Esoteric Philosophy the "One Witness," and, while it rests in Devachan, is referred to as the "Three Witnesses to Karma."]

*Âtmâ* our seventh principle, being identical with the Universal Spirit, and man being one with it in his essence, what is then the Monad proper ? It is that homogeneous spark which radiates in millions of rays from the primeval Seven ;—of which Seven something will be said further on. It is the EMANATING SPARK FROM THE UNCREATED RAY—a mystery. In the esoteric, and even exoteric Buddhism of the North, *Âdi-Buddha* (*Chogi Dangpoi Sangye*), the One Unknown, without beginning or end, identical with Parabrahman and *Ain Soph*, emits a bright Ray from its Darkness.

This is the *Logos*, the First, or Vajradhara, the Supreme Buddha, also called Dorjechang.<sup>1</sup> As the Lord of all Mysteries he cannot manifest, but sends into the world of manifestation his Heart—the “Diamond Heart,” Vajrasattva or Dorjesempa.<sup>2</sup> This is the Second *Logos* of Creation, from whom emanate the seven—in the exoteric blind the five—Dhyâni-Buddhas, called the Anupâdaka, the “Parentless.” These Buddhas are the primeval Monads from the World of *Incorporeal Being*, the *Arûpa* World, wherein the Intelligences (on that plane only) have neither shape nor name, in the exoteric system, but have their distinct seven names in the Esoteric Philosophy. These Dhyâni-Buddhas emanate, or create from themselves, by virtue of Dhyâna, celestial Selves—the *Super-human* Bodhisattvas. These, incarnating at the beginning of every human cycle on Earth as mortal men, become occasionally, owing to their personal merit, Bodhisattvas among the Sons of Humanity, after which they may re-appear as Mânushi, or Human, Buddhas. The Anupâdaka, or Dhyâni-Buddhas, are thus identical with Brâhmanical *Mânasaputra*, “Mind-born Sons”—whether of Brahmâ or of either of the other two Trimurtian Hypostases; they are identical also with the Rishis and Prajâpatîs. Thus, a passage is found in *Anugîtâ*, which, read esoterically, shows plainly, though under another imagery, the same idea and system. It says :

Whatever entities (there are) in this world, movable or immovable, they are the very first to be dissolved [at Pralaya], and next the developments produced from the elements [from which the visible universe is fashioned], and after these developments [evolved entities], all the elements. Such is the upward gradation among entities. Gods, Men, Gandharvas, Pishâchas, Asuras, Râkshasas, all have been created by nature [Svabhâva, or Prakriti, plastic Nature], not by actions, nor by a cause [not by any physical cause]. These Brâhmanas [the Rishi Prajâpatî?], the creators of the world, are born here [on earth] again and again. And whatever is produced from them is dissolved in due time in those very five great elements [the five, or rather seven, Dhyâni-Buddhas, also called “Elements” of Mankind], like billows in the ocean. These great elements are in every way (beyond) the elements that make up the world [the gross elements]. And he who is released, even from these five elements [the Tanmâtras],<sup>3</sup> goes to the highest goal. The Lord Prajâpatî [Brahmâ] created all this by the mind only [by Dhyâna, or abstract meditation and mystic powers, like the Dhyâni-Buddhas].<sup>4</sup>

Evidently then, these Brâhmanas are identical with the terrestrial Bodhisattvas of the heavenly Dhyâni-Buddhas. Both, as primordial, intelligent “Elements,” become the *creators* or the *emanators* of the Monads destined

<sup>1</sup> [Tibetan rdo rje hdsin—vajra-dhara (Sanskrit), thunderbolt-holder ]

<sup>2</sup> [Tibetan rdi rje sems dpah—vajra-sattva (Sanskrit), here vajra means diamond, and sattva, nature, essence or principle, etc ]

<sup>3</sup> The Tanmâtras are literally the type or rudiment of an element devoid of qualities, but esoterically, they are the primeval *noumena* of that which becomes in the progress of evolution, a Cosmic Element, in the sense given to the term in Antiquity, not in that of Physics. They are the Logoi, the seven emanations or rays of the Logos.

<sup>4</sup> Ch. xxxvi, Telang's translation, *Sacred Books of the East*, pp 387-8



to become human in that cycle, after which they evolve themselves, or, so to say, expand into their own *Selves* as Bodhisattvas or Brâhmanas, in heaven and earth, to become at last simple men. "The creators of the world *are born here on earth again and again*"—truly. In the Northern Buddhist system, or the popular exoteric religion, it is taught that every Buddha, while preaching the Good Law on Earth, manifests himself simultaneously in three Worlds: in the Formless World as a Dhyâni-Buddha, in the World of Forms as a Bodhisattva, and in the World of Desire, the lowest or our World, as a man. Esoterically the teaching differs. The divine, purely Âdi-Buddhic *Monad* manifests as the universal Buddha, the *Maha-Buddhi*, or Mahat, in Hindu philosophies, the spiritual, omniscient and omnipotent Root of divine Intelligence, the highest *anima mundi* or the Logos. *This* descends "like a flame spreading from the eternal Fire, immovable, without increase or decrease, ever the same to the end" of the cycle of existence, and becomes Universal Life on the Mundane Plane. From this Plane of *conscious* Life shoot out like seven fiery tongues, the Sons of Light, the *Logoi* of Life, then the Dhyâni-Buddhas of contemplation, the concrete forms of their formless Fathers, the Seven Sons of Light, *still themselves*, to whom may be applied the Brâhmanical mystic phrase "Thou art THAT"—*Brahman*. It is from these Dhyâni-Buddhas that emanate their *Chhâyâs* or Shadows, the Bodhisattvas of the celestial realms, the prototypes of the *super-terrestrial* Bodhisattvas, and of the terrestrial Buddhas, and finally of men. The "Seven Sons of Light" are also called "Stars."

The star under which a human Entity is born, says the Occult Teaching, will remain for ever its star, throughout the whole cycle of its incarnations in one Manvantara. *But this is not his astrological star*. The latter is concerned and connected with the *personality*, the former with the INDIVIDUALITY. The "Angel" of that Star, or the Dhyâni-Buddha connected with it, will be either the guiding, or simply the presiding "Angel," so to say, in every new rebirth of the Monad, *which is part of his own essence*, though his vehicle, man, may remain for ever ignorant of this fact. The Adepts have each their Dhyâni-Buddha, their elder "Twin-Soul," and they know it, calling it "Father-Soul," and "Father-Fire." It is only at the last and supreme Initiation, however, when placed face to face with the bright "Image" that they learn to recognize it. How much did Bulwer Lytton know of this mystic fact, when describing, in one of his highest inspirational moods, Zanoni face to face with his Augoeides?

The Logos, or both the unmanifested and the manifested Word, is called by the Hindus, Îshvara, the Lord, though the Occultists give it another name.

Îshvara, say the Vedântins, is the highest consciousness in Nature “This highest consciousness,” answer the Occultists, “is only a *synthetic unit* in the World of the manifested Logos—or on the plane of illusion, for it is the sum total of Dhyân Chohanîc consciousness.” “O wise man, remove the conception that *not-Spirit is Spirit*”—says Shankarâchârya. Âtma is *not-Spirit* in its final Parabrahmic state, Îshvara, or Logos, is Spirit, or, as Occultism explains, it is a compound unity of manifested living Spirits, the parent-source and nursery of all the mundane and terrestrial Monads, *plus* their *divine* Reflection, which emanate from, and return into, the Logos, each in the culmination of its time. There are seven chief Groups of such Dhyân Chohans, which groups will be found and recognized in every religion, for they are the primeval SEVEN Rays. Humanity, Occultism teaches us, is divided into seven distinct Groups, with their sub-divisions, mental, spiritual, and physical [Hence there are seven chief planets, the *spheres* of the indwelling seven Spirits, under each of which is born one of the human Groups which is guided and influenced thereby. There are only seven planets *specially* connected with Earth, and twelve houses, but the possible combinations of their aspects are countless. As each planet can stand to each of the others in twelve different aspects, their combinations must be almost infinite, as infinite, in fact, as the spiritual, psychic, mental and physical capacities in the numberless varieties of the *genus homo*, each of which varieties is born under one of the seven planets and one of the said countless planetary combinations.<sup>1</sup>]

The Monad, then, viewed as ONE, is above the seventh principle in Kosmos and man, and as a Triad, it is the direct radiant progeny of the said COMPOUND UNIT, not the Breath of “God,” as that Unit is called, nor creating out of *nihil*, for such an idea is quite unphilosophical, and degrades Deity, dragging It down to a finite, attributive condition. As well expressed by the translator of the *Crest-Jewel of Wisdom*—though Îshvara is “God”.

Unchanged in the profoundest depths of *pralaya* and in the intensest activity of the *manvantra* [still] beyond [him] is Âtmâ, round whose pavilion is the darkness of eternal Mâyâ.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *The Theosophist*, August, 1886, p. 729

<sup>2</sup> The now universal error of attributing to the Ancients the knowledge of only seven planets, simply because they mentioned no others, is based on the same general ignorance of their Occult doctrines. The question is not whether they were, or were not, aware of the existence of the later discovered planets, but whether the reverence paid by them to the four exoteric and three secret Great Gods—the Star-Angels, had not some special reason. The writer ventures to say there was such a reason, and it is this. Had they known of as many planets as we do now—and this question can hardly be decided at present either way—they would still have only connected the seven with their religious worship, because these seven are directly and specially connected with our Earth, or, using esoteric phraseology, with our septenary Ring of Spheres.

The "Triads" born under the same Parent-Planet, or rather the *Radiations* of one and the same Planetary Spirit or Dhyâni-Buddha are, in all their after lives and rebirths, sister, or "twin" souls, on this Earth. [The idea is the same as that of the Christian Trinity, the "Three in One," only it is still more metaphysical: the Universal "Over-Spirit," manifesting on the two higher planes, those of Buddhi and Mahat. These are the three Hypostases, metaphysical, but *never personal*.]

This was known to every high Initiate in every age and in every country: "I and my Father are one," said Jesus.<sup>1</sup> When he is made to say, elsewhere: "I ascend unto my Father, and your Father,"<sup>2</sup> it meant that which has just been stated. [The identity, and at the same time the illusive differentiation of the *Angel-Monad* and the *Human-Monad* is shown in the sentences. "My Father is greater than I";<sup>3</sup> "Glorify your Father which is in heaven";<sup>4</sup> "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (not *our* Father)<sup>5</sup> So again Paul asks: "Know ye not ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"<sup>6</sup>] All this was simply meant to show that the group of disciples and followers attracted to him belonged to the same Dhyâni-Buddha, Star, or Father, and that this again belonged to the same planetary realm and division as he did. It is the knowledge of this Occult Doctrine that found expression in the review of *The Idyll of the White Lotus*, when T. Subba Row wrote:

Every Buddha meets at his last Initiation all the great Adepts who reached Buddhahood during the preceding ages every class of Adepts has its own bond of spiritual communion which knits them together The only possible and effectual way of entering into any such brotherhood is by bringing oneself within the influence of the spiritual light which radiates from one's own Logos I may further point out here that such communion is only possible between persons whose souls derive their life and sustenance from the same divine Ray, and that, as seven distinct Rays radiate from the "Central Spiritual Sun," all Adepts and Dhyân Chohans are divisible into seven classes, each of which is guided, controlled and overshadowed by one of the seven forms or manifestations of the divine Wisdom.<sup>7</sup>

It is then the Seven Sons of Light,—called after their planets and often identified with them by the rabble, namely, Saturn, Jupiter, Mercury, Mars, Venus, and *presumably* the Sun and Moon, for the modern critic, who goes no deeper than the surface of old religions<sup>8</sup>—which are, according to the

<sup>1</sup> John, x, 30

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, xx, 17

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, xiv, 28

<sup>4</sup> Matt, v, 16

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, xiii, 43

<sup>6</sup> 1 Cor, iii, 16

<sup>7</sup> *The Theosophist*, Aug, 1886, p. 706

<sup>8</sup> These are planets accepted for purposes of Judicial Astrology only. The astro-theological division differed from the above, The Sun, being a central star and not a planet, stands, with its seven planets, in more occult and mysterious relations to our Globe than is generally known. The Sun was, therefore, considered the great Father of all the Seven "Fathers," and this accounts for the variations found between the seven and eight Great Gods of Chaldean and other countries. Neither

Occult Teachings, our heavenly Parents, or synthetically our "Father". Hence, as already remarked, Polytheism is really more philosophical and correct, as to fact and Nature, than is anthropomorphic Monotheism. Saturn, Jupiter, Mercury, and Venus, the four exoteric planets, and the three others, which must remain unnamed, were the heavenly bodies in direct astral and psychic communication, morally and physically, with the Earth, its Guides, and Watchers, the visible orbs furnishing our Humanity with its outward and inward characteristics, and their "Regents" or Rectors with our Monads and spiritual faculties. In order to avoid creating new misconceptions, let it be stated that among the three secret Orbs, or Star-Angels, neither Uranus nor Neptune were included; not only because they were unknown under these names to the ancient Sages, but because they, like all other planets, however many there may be, are the Gods and Guardians of other septenary Chains of Globes within our System.

Nor do the two great planets last discovered depend entirely on the Sun, as do the rest of the planets. Otherwise, how can we explain the fact that Uranus receives  $\frac{3}{800}$ th part of the light received by our Earth, while Neptune receives only  $\frac{1}{800}$ th part, and that their satellites show a peculiarity of inverse rotation found in no other planets of the Solar System? At any rate, what we say applies to Uranus, though the fact has again been disputed recently.

This subject will, of course, be considered as a mere vagary, by all those who confuse the universal order of Being with their own systems of classification. Here, however, simple facts from Occult Teachings are stated, to be either accepted or rejected, as the case may be. There are details which, on account of their great metaphysical abstraction, cannot be entered upon. Hence, we merely state that only seven of our planets are as intimately related to our Globe, as the Sun is to all the bodies subject to him in his System. Of these bodies the poor little number of *primary* and *secondary* planets known to Astronomy, looks wretched enough, in truth.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, it stands

the Earth, nor the Moon, its satellite, nor yet the stars, for another reason, were anything more than *substitutes used for Esoteric purposes*. Yet, even with the exclusion of the Sun and the Moon from the calculation, the Ancients seem to have known of seven planets. How many more are known to us, so far, if we throw out the Earth and Moon? Seven, and no more. Seven primary or principal planets, the rest *planetoids*, rather than planets.

<sup>1</sup> When one remembers that under the powerful telescope of Sir William Herschel, that eminent Astronomer—gauging merely that portion of heaven in the equatorial plane, the approximate centre of which is occupied by our Earth—saw in one quarter of an hour, 16,000 stars pass, and applying this calculation to the totality of the "Milky Way" he found in it no less than eighteen millions of SUNS, one wonders no longer that Laplace, in conversation with Napoleon I., should have called God a HYPOTHESIS—perfectly useless to speculate upon for exact Physical Science, at any rate. Occult Metaphysics and transcendental Philosophy will alone be able to lift the smallest corner of the impene-trable veil in this direction.

to reason that there are a great number of planets, small and large, that have not been discovered yet, but of the existence of which ancient Astronomers—all of them initiated Adepts—must certainly have been aware. But, as the relation of these to the Gods was sacred, it had to remain arcane, as did also the names of various other planets and stars.

Besides this, even the Roman Catholic Theology speaks of “seventy planets that preside over the destinies of the nations of this globe;” and, save the erroneous application, there is more truth in this tradition than in exact modern Astronomy. The seventy planets are connected with the seventy elders of the people of Israel,<sup>1</sup> and the *Regents* of these planets are meant, not the orbs themselves, the word seventy is a play and a *blind* upon the 7×7 of the subdivisions. Each people and nation, as we have already said, has its *direct* Watcher, Guardian and Father in Heaven—a Planetary Spirit. We are willing to leave their own national God, Jehovah, to the descendants of Israel, the worshippers of *Sabaoth* or SATURN, for, indeed, the *Monads* of the people chosen by him are his own, and the *Bible* has never made any secret of it. Only the text of the Protestant English *Bible* is, as usual, in disagreement with those of the Septuagint and the Vulgate. Thus, while in the former we read :

When the Most High [not Jehovah] divided to the nations their inheritance  
he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of  
Israel<sup>2</sup>

In the *Septuagint* the text reads “according to the *number of the Angels*,” Planet-Angels, a version more concordant with truth and fact. Moreover, all the texts agree that “the Lord’s [Jehovah’s] *portion* is his people, Jacob *is* the lot of *his* inheritance”,<sup>3</sup> and this settles the question, The “Lord” Jehovah took Israel *for his portion*, what have other nations to do with that particular *national* Deity? Let then, the “Angel Gabriel” watch over Iran and “Mikael-Jehovah” over the Hebrews. These are not the Gods of other nations, and it is difficult to see why Christians should have selected a God against whose commandments Jesus was the first to rise in rebellion.

The planetary origin of the Monad, or Soul, and of its faculties was taught by the Gnostics. On its way to the Earth, as on its way back from the Earth, each soul born in, and from, the “Boundless Light,”<sup>4</sup> had to pass through the seven planetary regions either way. The pure Dhyâni and Devas of the oldest religions had become, in course of time, with the Zoroastrians,

<sup>1</sup> *Numb*, xi, 16

<sup>2</sup> *Deut*, xxxii, 8

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, 9

<sup>4</sup> C W King in *The Gnostics and Their Remains* (p. 344), identifies it with “that *summum bonum* of Oriental aspiration, the Buddhist Nirvâna, ‘perfect repose, the Epicurean *Indolentia*’, ‘a view that looks flippant enough in its expression, though not quite untrue

the Seven Devs, the ministers of Ahriman, "each chained to his planet",<sup>1</sup> with the Brāhmans, the Asuras and some of the Rishis—good, bad and indifferent; among the Egyptian Gnostics it was Thoth, or Hermes, who was the chief of the Seven whose names are given by Origen as *Adonai*, genius of the Sun; *Tao*, of the Moon; *Eloi*, of Jupiter; *Sabaoth*, of Mars; *Orai*, of Venus; *Astaphai*, of Mercury; and *Ildabaoth* (Jehovah), of Saturn. Finally, the *Pistis-Sophia*, which the greatest modern authority on exoteric Gnostic beliefs, the late Mr C.W.King, refers to as "that precious monument of Gnosticism"—this old document echoes the archaic belief of the ages, while distorting it to suit sectarian purposes. The Astral Rulers of the Spheres, the planets, create the Monads, or Souls, from their own substance out of "the tears of their eyes, and the sweat of their torments," endowing the Monads with a spark of their substance which is the Divine Light. It will be shown in Volumes 3 and 4 why these "Lords of the Zodiac and Spheres" have been transformed by sectarian Theology into the Rebellious Angels of the Christians, who took them from the Seven Devas of the Magi, without understanding the significance of the allegory.<sup>2</sup>

As usual, that which *is* and *was* from its beginning, divine, pure, and spiritual in its earliest unity, became—by reason of its differentiation through the distorted prism of man's conceptions—human and impure, as reflecting man's own sinful nature. Thus, in time, the planet Saturn became reviled by the worshippers of other "Gods". The nations born under Saturn—the Jewish, for instance, with whom he became Jehovah, after being considered as a son of Saturn, or Ilda-Baoth, by the Ophites, and in the Book of Jasher—were eternally fighting with those born under Jupiter, Mercury, or any other planet, except Saturn-Jehovah, genealogies and prophecies notwithstanding, Jesus the *Initiate* (or Jehoshua)—the type from whom the "historical" Jesus was copied—was not of pure Jewish blood, and thus recognized no Jehovah, nor did he worship any planetary God beside his own "Father," whom he knew, and with whom he communed, as every high Initiate does, "Spirit to Spirit and Soul to Soul." This can hardly be taken exception to, unless the critic explains to every one's satisfaction the strange sentences put into the mouth of Jesus during his disputes with the Pharisees by the author of the Fourth Gospel:

I know that ye are Abraham's seed<sup>3</sup>      I speak that which I have seen with my Father, and ye do that which ye have seen with your father      Ye do the deeds of your father      Ye are of your father the devil      He was a murderer

<sup>1</sup> See Origen's Copy of the Chart, or Diagramma of the Ophites

<sup>2</sup> See also Section 14

<sup>3</sup> Abraham and Saturn are identical in astro-symbology, and he is the forefather of the Jehovistic Jews

from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie he speaketh of his own · for he is a liar and the father of it <sup>1</sup>

This "Father" of the Pharisees was Jehovah, for he was identical with Cain, Saturn, Vulcan, etc.—the planet under which they were born, and the God whom they worshipped. Evidently there must be an Occult meaning sought in these words and admonitions, however mistranslated, since they are pronounced by one who threatened with hell-fire anyone who says to his brother simply *Raca, fool.*<sup>2</sup> And evidently, again, the planets are not merely spheres, twinkling in Space, and made to shine for no purpose, but they are the domains of various Beings with whom the uninitiated are so far unacquainted, but who have, nevertheless, a mysterious, unbroken, and powerful connection with men and globes. Every heavenly body is the temple of a God, and these Gods themselves are the temples of GOD, the Unknown "Not Spirit." There is nothing profane in the Universe. All Nature is a consecrated place, as Young says

Each of these Stars is a religious house

Thus can all exoteric religions be shown to be the falsified copies of the Esoteric Teaching. It is the priesthood which has to be held responsible for the reaction of our day in favour of Materialism. It is by worshipping and enforcing on the masses the worship of the shells of pagan ideals—personified for purposes of allegory—that the latest exoteric religion has made of Western lands a Pandemonium, in which the higher classes worship the golden calf, and the lower and ignorant masses are made to worship an idol with feet of clay.

<sup>1</sup> John, viii 37, 38, 41, 44

<sup>2</sup> Matthew, v. 22.

## SECTION 11

### ANCIENT THOUGHT IN MODERN DRESS

MODERN SCIENCE IS ANCIENT THOUGHT DISTORTED, and no more. We have seen, however, *what intuitional Scientists think*, and are busy about, and now the reader shall be given a few more proofs of the fact that more than one FRS is unconsciously approaching the derided Secret Sciences.

With regard to Cosmogony and primeval matter, modern speculations are undeniably ancient thought, *improved* by contradictory theories of recent origin. The whole foundation belongs to Grecian and Indian Archaic Astronomy and Physics, in those days called always Philosophy. In all the Aryan and Greek speculations, we meet with the conception of an all-pervading, unorganized, and homogeneous Matter, or *Chaos*, re-named by modern Scientists "*nebular condition of the world-stuff.*" What Anaxagoras called *Chaos* in his *Homoiomeria* is now called "*primitive fluid*" by Sir W. Thomson. The Hindu and Greek Atomists—Kanâda, Leucippus, Democritus, Epicurus, Lucretius, etc.—are now reflected, as in a clear mirror, in the supporters of the Atomic Theory of our modern days, beginning with Leibnitz's Monads, and ending with the Vortical Atoms of Sir W. Thomson.<sup>1</sup> True, the corpuscular theory of old is rejected, and the undulatory theory has taken its place.<sup>2</sup> But the question is, *whether the latter is so firmly established as not to be liable to be dethroned like its predecessor?* Light, from its metaphysical aspect, has been fully treated in *Isis Unveiled*.

Light is the first begotten and the first emanation of the Supreme, and Light is Life, says the Evangelist and the Kabbalist. Both are electricity—the life principle, the *anima mundi*—pervading the universe, the electric vivifier of all things. Light is the great Protean magician, and under the divine Will of the Architect,<sup>3</sup> or rather the architects, the "Builders," called One collectively, its multifarious, omnipotent waves gave birth

<sup>1</sup> The Elemental Vortices inaugurated by the "Mind" have not been improved by their modern transformation.

<sup>2</sup> [Science at present considers light to be both corpuscular and undulatory.]

<sup>3</sup> I have often been taken to task for using expressions in *Isis* denoting belief in a personal and anthropomorphic God. This is not my idea. Kabbalistically speaking, the "Architect" is the generic name for the Sephiroth, the Builders of the Universe, as the "Universal Mind" represents the collectivity of the Dhyân Chohanîc Minds.



to every form as well as to every living being. From its swelling electric bosom, spring matter and spirit. Within its beams lie the beginnings of all physical and chemical action, and of all cosmic and spiritual phenomena; it vitalizes and disorganizes; it gives life and produces death, and from its primordial point gradually emerged into existence the myriads of worlds, visible and invisible celestial bodies. It was at the ray of this First Mother, one in three, that "God," according to Plato, "lighted a Fire which we now call the Sun,"<sup>1</sup> and which is not the cause of either light or heat, but merely the focus, or, as we might say, the lens, by which the rays of the primordial light become materialized, are concentrated upon our Solar System, and produce all the correlations of forces.<sup>2</sup>

This is the *Ether*, as just explained in the views of Metcalf, repeated by Dr. Richardson, save for the submission of the former to some details of the modern undulatory theory. We do not say that we deny the theory; we assert only that it needs completion and rearrangement. But the Occultists are by no means the only heretics in this respect, for Mr Robert Hunt, F.R.S. finds that:

the undulatory theory does not account for the results of his experiments.<sup>3</sup> Sir David Brewster, in his *Treatise on Optics*, showing "that the colours of vegetable life arise from a specific attraction which the particles of these bodies exercise over the differently-coloured rays of light," and that "it is by the light of the sun that the coloured juices of plants are elaborated, that the colours of bodies are changed, etc," remarks that it is not easy to allow "that such effects can be produced by the mere vibration of an ethereal medium." And he is forced, he says, "by this class of facts, to reason as if light was material" [?]. Professor Josiah P. Cooke, of Harvard University, says that he "cannot agree with those who regard the wave-theory of light as an established principle of science."<sup>4</sup> Herschel's doctrine, that the intensity of light, in effect of each undulation, "is inversely as the square of the distance from the luminous body," if correct, damages a good deal, if it does not kill, the undulatory theory. That he is right, was proved repeatedly by experiments with photometers; and though it begins to be much doubted, the undulatory theory is still alive.

To this remark of Sir David Brewster—"forced to reason as if light was material"—there is a good deal to reply. Light, in one sense, is certainly as material as is electricity itself. And if electricity is not material, if it is only a "mode of motion," how is it that it can be stored up in Faure's accumulators? Helmholtz says that electricity must be as atomic as matter; and Prof. (Sir) W. Crookes, F.R.S., supported the view in his address at Birmingham, in 1886, to the Chemical Section of the British Association, of which he was President. This is what Helmholtz says:

If we accept the hypothesis that the elementary substances are composed of atoms, we cannot avoid concluding that electricity also, positive as well as negative, is divided into definite elementary portions, which behave like atoms of electricity.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Timæus*      <sup>2</sup> I, 258

<sup>3</sup> *Researches on Light in its Chemical Relations*

<sup>4</sup> *Modern Chemistry*

<sup>5</sup> *Isis Unveiled*, I, 137

<sup>6</sup> *Faraday Lectures*, 1881 [Prof. Crookes' positive and negative particles of electricity are now our positron and neutron]

Here we have to repeat that which was already said in Section 8, that there is but one science that can henceforth direct modern research into the one path which will lead to the discovery of the whole, hitherto Occult, truth, and it is the youngest of all—Chemistry, as it now stands reformed. There is no other, not excluding Astronomy, that can so unerringly guide scientific intuition, as can Chemistry. Two proofs of this are to be found in the world of Science—two great Chemists, each among the greatest in his own country, namely, Professor Crookes and Professor Butlerof: the one was a thorough believer in abnormal phenomena, the other was as fervid a Spiritualist, as he was great in the natural sciences. It becomes evident that, while pondering over the ultimate divisibility of Matter, and in the hitherto *fruitless* chase after the element of negative atomic weight, the scientifically trained mind of the Chemist must feel irresistibly drawn towards those ever-shrouded worlds, to that mysterious Beyond, whose measureless depths seem to close against the approach of the too materialistic hand that would fain draw aside its veil. “It is the unknown and the ever-unknowable,” warns the Monist-Agnostic. “Not so,” answers the persevering Chemist. “We are on the track and we are not daunted, and fain would we enter the mysterious region which *ignorance tickets unknown*.”

[In his Presidential Address at Birmingham Prof. Crookes said :

There is but one unknown—the ultimate substratum of Spirit [Space] That which is not the Absolute and the One is, in virtue of that very differentiation, however far removed from the physical senses, always accessible to the spiritual human mind, which is a coruscation of the undifferentiable Integral ]

Two or three sentences, at the very close of his lecture on the *Genesis of the Elements*, showed the eminent Scientist to be on the royal road to the greatest discoveries. He has been for some time foreshadowing “the original *protyle*,” and he has come to the conclusion that “he who grasps the Key will be permitted to unlock some of the deepest mysteries of creation.” *Protyle*, as the great Chemist explains :

is a word analogous to protoplasm, to express the idea of the original primal matter existing before the evolution of the chemical elements. The word I have ventured to use for this purpose is compounded of  $\pi\rho\acute{o}$  (earlier than) and  $\psi\lambda\eta$  (the stuff of which things are made). The word is scarcely a new coinage, for 600 years ago Roger Bacon wrote in his *Arte Chymicæ*, “The elements are made out of  $\psi\lambda\eta$  and every element is converted into the nature of another element.”

The knowledge of Roger Bacon did not come to this wonderful old magician<sup>1</sup> by inspiration, but because he studied ancient works on Magic and

<sup>1</sup> What the writer of the present work said ten years ago in *Isis Unveiled* was, it seems, prophetic. These are the words: “Many of these mystics, by following what they were taught by some treatises, secretly preserved from one generation to another, achieved discoveries which would not be despised even in our modern days of exact sciences. Roger Bacon, the friar, was laughed at

Alchemy, and had a key to the real meaning of their language. But see what Prof Crookes says of Protyle, next neighbour to the unconscious *Mūlaprakṛiti* of the Occultists .

Let us start at the moment when the first element came into existence. Before this time, matter, as we know it, was not . It is equally impossible to conceive of matter without energy, as of energy without matter , from one point of view both are convertible terms . Before the birth of atoms, all those forms of energy, which become evident when matter acts upon matter, could not have existed<sup>1</sup>—they were locked up in the protyle as latent potentialities only . Coincident with the creation of atoms, all those attributes and properties, which form the means of discriminating one chemical element from another, start into existence fully endowed with energy<sup>2</sup> .

With every respect due to the great knowledge of the lecturer, the Occultist would put it otherwise. He would say that no Atom is ever “created,” for the Atoms are eternal within the bosom of the One Atom—“the Atom of Atoms”—viewed during *Manvantara* as the *Jagad-Yoni*, the material causative womb of the World *Pradhâna*, unmodified Matter—that which is the first form of *Prakṛiti*, or material, visible, as well as invisible Nature—and *Purusha*, Spirit, are eternally one , and they are *Nirupâdhi*, without adventitious qualities or attributes, only during *Pralaya*, and when beyond any of the planes of consciousness of existence. The Atom, as known to modern Science, is inseparable from *Purusha*, which is Spirit, but is now called “Energy” in Science . The Protyle Atom has not been comminuted or subtilized . it has simply passed into that plane, which is no plane, but the eternal state of everything beyond the planes of illusion . Both *Purusha* and *Pradhâna* are immutable and unconsumable, or *Aparinâmin* and *Avyaya*, in eternity , and both may be referred to during the *Mâyâvic* periods as *Vyaya* and *Parinâmin*, or that which can expand, pass away and disappear, and which is “modifiable” . In this sense *Purusha*, must, of course, be held distinct in our conceptions from *Parabrahman*. Nevertheless that which is called “energy” or “force” in Science, and which has been explained as a dual force by Metcalfe, is never, in fact, and cannot be, energy alone , for it is the Substance of the World, its Soul, the *all-permeant*, *Sarvaga*, in conjunction with *Kâla*, Time. The three are the trinity in one, during

as a quack, and is now generally numbered among ‘pretenders’ to magic art , but his discoveries were nevertheless accepted, and are now used by those who ridicule him the most . Roger Bacon belonged by right, if not by fact, to that Brotherhood which includes all those who study the Occult Sciences . Living in the thirteenth century, almost a contemporary, therefore, of Albertus Magnus and Thomas Aquinas, his discoveries—such as gunpowder and optical glasses, and his mechanical achievements—were considered by everyone as so many miracles. He was accused of having made a compact with the Evil One ” (Vol I, pp 64-5 )

<sup>1</sup> Just so, “those forms of energy which become evident ” in the laboratory of the Chemist and Physicist , but there are other forms of energy wedded to other forms of matter, which are supersensuous, yet are known to the Adepts

<sup>2</sup> Presidential Address, p 16

Manvantara, the all-potential Unity, which acts as three distinct things on Mâyâ, the plane of illusion. In the Orphic philosophy of ancient Greece they were called *Phanes*, *Chaos*, and *Kronos*—the triad of the Occult Philosophers of that period.

But see how closely Prof. Crookes brushes the "Unknowable," and what potentialities there are for the acceptance of Occult truths in his discoveries. He continues, speaking of the evolution of Atoms :

Let us pause at the end of the first complete vibration and examine the result. We have already found the elements of water, ammonia, carbonic acid, the atmosphere, plant and animal life, phosphorus for the brain, salt for the seas, clay for the solid earth, phosphates and silicates sufficient for a world and inhabitants not so very different from what we enjoy at the present day. True the human inhabitants would have to live in a state of more than Arcadian simplicity, and the absence of calcic phosphate would be awkward as far as the bone is concerned<sup>1</sup>. At the lower end of our curve we see a great hiatus. This oasis, and the blanks which precede and follow it, may be referred with much probability to the particular way in which our earth developed into a member of our solar system. If this be so, it may be that on our earth only these blanks occur, and not generally throughout the universe.

This justifies several assertions in the Occult works.

Firstly, that neither the stars nor the Sun can be said to be constituted of those terrestrial elements with which the Chemist is familiar, though they are all present in the Sun's outward robes—as well as a host more of elements so far unknown to Science.

Secondly, that our globe has its own special laboratory on the far-away outskirts of its atmosphere, crossing which, every Atom and molecule changes and differentiates from its primordial nature.

Thirdly, that though no element present on our Earth could ever possibly be found wanting in the Sun, there are many others there which have either not reached, or not as yet been discovered on, our globe.

Some may be missing in certain stars and heavenly bodies in the process of formation, or, though present in them, these elements, on account of their present state, may not respond as yet to the usual scientific tests<sup>2</sup>.

Prof. Crookes speaks of *helium*,<sup>3</sup> an element of still lower atomic weight than hydrogen, an *element purely hypothetical* as far as our earth is concerned, though existing in abundance in the chromosphere of the Sun. Occult Science adds that not one of the elements regarded as such by Chemistry really deserves the name.

<sup>1</sup> It is just the existence of such worlds on other planes of consciousness that is asserted by the Occultist. The Secret Science teaches that the primitive race was boneless, and that there are worlds invisible to us, peopled as our own, besides the populations of Dhyân Chohans.

<sup>2</sup> *Five Years of Theosophy*, p. 258 et seq.

<sup>3</sup> [Helium was obtained by Sir William Ramsay in 1895].

Again we find Prof. Crookes speaking with approbation of

Dr Carnelly's weighty argument in favour of the compound nature of the so-called elements, from their analogy to the compound radicles

Hitherto, Alchemy alone, within the historical period, and in the so-called civilized countries, has succeeded in obtaining a real *element*, or a particle of homogeneous Matter, the *Mysterium Magnum* of Paracelsus. But then that was before Lord Bacon's day <sup>1</sup>

. . . Let us now turn to the upper portion of the scheme With hydrogen of atomic weight=1, there is little room for other elements, save, perhaps for hypothetical *Helium* But what if we get "through the looking-glass," and cross the zero line in search of new principles—what shall we find on the other side of zero? Dr Carnelly asks for an element of negative atomic weight, here is ample room and verge enough for a shadow series of such unsubstantialities Helmholtz says that electricity is probably as atomic as matter, is electricity one of the negative elements, and the luminiferous ether another? Matter, as we now know it, does not here exist, the forms of energy which are apparent in the motions of matter are as yet only latent possibilities *A substance of negative weight is not inconceivable* But can we form a clear conception of a body which combines with other bodies in proportions expressible by negative qualities? <sup>2</sup>

A genesis of the elements such as is here sketched out would not be confined to our little solar system, but would probably follow the same general sequence of events in every centre of energy now visible as a star

Before the birth of atoms to gravitate towards one another, no pressure could be exercised, but at the outskirts of the fire-mist sphere, within which all is protyle—at the shell on which the tremendous forces involved in the birth of a chemical element exert full sway—the fierce heat would be accompanied by gravitation sufficient to keep the newly-born elements from flying off into space. As temperature increases, expansion and molecular motion increase, molecules tend to fly asunder, and their chemical affinities become deadened, but the enormous pressure of the gravitation of the mass of atomic matter, outside what I may for brevity call the birth-shell, would counteract the action of heat

Beyond the birth-shell would be a space in which no chemical action could take place, owing to the temperature there being above what is called the dissociation-point for compounds In this space the lion and the lamb would lie down together, phosphorus and oxygen would mix without union, hydrogen and chlorine would show no tendency to closer bonds, and even fluorine, that energetic gas which chemists have only isolated within the last month or two, would float about free and uncombined

<sup>1</sup> Says Prof Crookes in the same address "The first riddle which we encounter in chemistry is 'What are the elements?' Of the attempts hitherto made to define or explain an element, none satisfy the demands of the human intellect The text books tell us that an element is 'a body which has not been decomposed', that it is 'a something to which we can add, but from which we can take nothing,' or 'a body which increases in weight with every chemical change' Such definitions are doubly unsatisfactory they are provisional, and may cease to-morrow to be applicable in any given case They take their stand, not on any attribute of the things to be defined, but on the limitations of human power they are confessions of intellectual impotence"

<sup>2</sup> And the lecturer quotes Sir George Airy, who says (in *Faraday's Life and Letters*, Vol II, p 354) "I can easily conceive that there are plenty of bodies about us not subject to this intermutual action, and therefore not subject to the law of gravitation."

<sup>3</sup> The Vedāntic philosophy conceives of such, but then it is not physics, but metaphysics, called by Prof Tyndall "poetry" and "fiction"

Outside this space of free atomic matter would be another shell, in which the formed chemical elements would have cooled down to the combination point, and the sequence of events so graphically described by Mr. Mattieu Williams in *The Fuel of the Sun* would now take place, culminating in the solid earth and the commencement of geological time (p 19)

This is, *in strictly scientific*, but beautiful language, the description of the evolution of the differentiated Universe in the Secret Teachings. The learned gentleman closes his address in words, every sentence of which is like a flash of light from beyond the dark veil of materiality, hitherto thrown upon the exact sciences, and is a step forward towards the *Sanctum Sanctorum* of the Occult. Thus he says :

We have glanced at the difficulty of defining an element, we have noticed, too, the revolt of many leading physicists and chemists against the ordinary acceptance of the term element; we have weighed the improbability of their eternal existence,<sup>1</sup> or *their origination by chance*. As a remaining alternative, we have suggested their origin by a process of evolution like that of the heavenly bodies according to Laplace, and the plants and animals of our globe according to Lamarck, Darwin, and Wallace.<sup>2</sup> In the general array of the elements, as known to us, we have seen a striking approximation to that of the organic world.<sup>3</sup> In lack of direct evidence of the decomposition of any element, we have sought and found indirect evidence. We have next glanced at the view of the genesis of the elements, and lastly we have reviewed a scheme of their origin suggested by Professor Reynolds' method of illustrating the periodic classification.<sup>4</sup> . . . Summing up all the above considerations we cannot, indeed, venture to assert positively that *our so-called elements have been evolved from one primordial matter, but we may contend that the balance of evidence, I think, fairly weighs in favour of this speculation*

<sup>1</sup> In the form they are now, we conceive?

<sup>2</sup> And to Kapila and Manu—especially and originally

<sup>3</sup> Here is scientific corroboration of the eternal law of correspondences and analogy

<sup>4</sup> This method of illustrating the periodic law in the classification of elements is, in the words of Prof Crookes, proposed by Prof Emerson Reynolds, of Dublin University, who "points out that in each period, the general properties of the elements vary from one to another, with approximate regularity until we reach the seventh member, which is in more or less striking contrast with the first element of the same period, as well as with the first of the next. Thus chlorine, the seventh member of Mendeleef's third period, contrasts sharply with both sodium, the first member of the same series, and with potassium, the first member of the next series, whilst on the other hand, sodium and potassium are closely analogous. The six elements, whose atomic weights intervene between sodium and potassium, vary in properties, step by step, until chlorine, the contrast to sodium, is reached. But from chlorine to potassium, the analogue of sodium, there is a change in properties *per saltum* [by a sudden great difference (lit jump)] If we thus recognize a contrast in properties—more or less decided—between the first and the last members of each series, we can scarcely help admitting the existence of a point of mean variation within each system. In general the fourth element of each series possesses the property we might expect a transition-element to exhibit. Thus for the purpose of graphic translation, Prof Reynolds considers that the fourth member of a period—silicon, for example—may be placed at the apex of a symmetrical curve, which shall represent for that particular period, the direction in which the properties of the series of elements vary with rising atomic weights."

Now, the writer humbly confesses complete ignorance of modern Chemistry and its mysteries. But she is pretty well acquainted with the Occult Doctrine with regard to *correspondences of types and antetypes* in nature, and to perfect analogy as a fundamental law in Occultism. Hence she ventures on a remark which will strike every Occultist, however it may be derided by orthodox Science. This method of illustrating the periodic law in the behaviour of elements, whether or not still a hypothesis in Chemistry, is a law in Occult Sciences. Every well-read Occultist knows that the seventh and fourth members—whether in a septenary chain of worlds, the septenary hierarchy of angels, or in the

Thus inductive Science, in its branches of Astronomy, Physics, and Chemistry, while advancing timidly towards the conquest of Nature's secrets in her final effects on our terrestrial plane, recedes to the days of Anaxagoras and the Chaldees in its discoveries of (a) the origin of our phenomenal world, and (b) the modes of formation of the bodies that compose the Universe. And having, for their cosmogonical hypotheses to turn back to the beliefs of the earliest philosophers, and the systems of the latter—systems that were all based on the teachings of a universal SECRET DOCTRINE with regard to primeval Matter, with its properties, functions, and laws—have we not the right to hope that the day is not far off when Science will show a better appreciation of the Wisdom of the Ancients than it has hitherto done?

No doubt Occult Philosophy could learn a good deal from exact modern Science, but the latter, on the other hand, might profit by ancient learning in more than one way, and chiefly in Cosmogony. It might learn, for instance, the mystical signification, alchemical and transcendental, of the many *imponderable* substances that fill interplanetary space, and which, interpenetrating each, are the direct cause, at the lower end, of the production of natural phenomena manifesting through so-called *vibration*. The knowledge of the *real*, not the hypothetical, nature of Ether, or rather of the Âkâsha, and other mysteries, in short, can alone lead to the knowledge of Forces. It is that Substance against which the Materialistic school of the Physicists rebels with such fury, especially in France,<sup>1</sup> and which exact Science has to advocate notwithstanding. They cannot make away with it without incurring the risk of pulling down the pillars of the Temple of Science, like a modern Samson, and of getting buried under its roof.

constitution of man, animal, plant, or mineral atom—that the *seventh* and *fourth* members, we say, in the geometrically and mathematically uniform workings of the immutable laws of Nature, always play a distinct and specific part in the septenary system. From the stars twinkling high in heaven, to the sparks flying asunder from the rude fire built by the savage in his forest, from the hierarchies and the essential constitution of the Dhyan Chohans—organized for diviner apprehensions and a loftier range of perception than the greatest Western Psychologist ever dreamed of, down to Nature's *classification* of species among the humblest insects, finally from Worlds to Atoms, everything in the Universe, from great to small, proceeds in its spiritual and physical evolution, cyclically and septennially, showing its seventh and fourth number (the latter the turning point) behaving in the same way as is shown in that periodic law of Atoms. Nature never proceeds *per saltum*. Therefore, when Prof Crookes remarks on this that he does not "wish to infer that the gaps in Mendeleef's table, and in this graphic representation of it [the diagram showing the evolution of Atoms] necessarily mean that there are elements actually existing to fill up the gaps, these gaps may only mean that at the birth of the elements there was an easy potentiality of the formation of an element which would fit into the place"—an Occultist would respectfully remark to him that the latter hypothesis can only hold good, if the septenary arrangement of Atoms is not interfered with. This is *the one law*, and an infallible method that must always lead one who follows it to success.

<sup>1</sup> A group of electricians has just protested against the new theory of Clausius, the famous professor of the University of Bonn. The character of the protest is shown in the signature, which has "Jules Bourdin, in the name of the group of Electricians, which had the honour of being introduced to Professor Clausius in 1881, and whose war-cry (*cri de ralliement*) is *À bas l'Ether*"—down with Ether even—they want Universal Void, you see!

The theories built upon the rejection of Force, *outside* and independent of Matter *pure and simple*, have all been shown to be fallacious. They do not, and cannot, cover the ground, and many of the scientific data are thus proved to be *unscientific*. “Ether produced Sound” is said in the *Purânas*, and the statement is laughed at. Sound is the result of the vibrations of the *air*, we are corrected. And what is air? Could it exist if there were no etheric medium in Space to buoy up its molecules? The case stands simply thus. Materialism cannot admit the existence of anything *outside* Matter, because with the acceptance of an imponderable Force—the source and head of all the physical Forces—other *intelligent* Forces would have to be virtually admitted, and that would lead Science very far. For it would have to accept as a sequel the presence in Man of a still more spiritual power—entirely independent, for once, of any kind of Matter about which Physicists know anything. Hence, apart from a hypothetical Ether of Space and gross physical bodies, the whole sidereal and unseen Space is, in the sight of Materialists, one boundless void in Nature—blind, unintelligent, useless.

And now the next question is : What is that Cosmic Substance, and how far can one go in suspecting its nature or in wrenching from it its secrets, thus feeling justified in giving it a NAME? How far, especially, has modern Science gone in the direction of those secrets, and what is it doing to solve them? The latest hobby of Science, the Nebular Theory, may afford us some answer to this question. Let us then examine the credentials of this Nebular Theory.



## SECTION 12

### SCIENTIFIC AND ESOTERIC EVIDENCE FOR, AND OBJECTIONS TO, THE MODERN NEBULAR THEORY

OF late, Esoteric Cosmogony has been frequently opposed by the phantom of this theory and its ensuing hypotheses. "Can this most scientific teaching be denied by your Adepts?" it is asked. "Not entirely," is the reply, "but the admissions of the men of Science themselves kill it. and there remains nothing for the Adepts to deny."

To make of Science an integral *whole* necessitates, indeed, the study of spiritual and psychic, as well as of physical, Nature. Otherwise it will ever be like the anatomy of man, discussed of old by the profane from the point of view of his shell-side, and ignorance of the interior work. Even Plato, the greatest Philosopher of his country, was guilty, before his Initiation, of such statements as that liquids pass into the stomach through the lungs. Without metaphysics, as Mr. H.J. Slack says, *real Science* is inadmissible.

The nebulae exist, yet the Nebular Theory is wrong. A nebula exists in a state of entire elemental dissociation. It is gaseous and—something else besides, which can hardly be connected with gases as these are known to Physical Science, and it is self-luminous. But that is all. The sixty-two "coincidences" enumerated by Professor Stephen Alexander,<sup>1</sup> confirming the Nebular Theory, may all be explained by Esoteric Science, though, as this is not an astronomical work, the refutations are not attempted at present. Laplace and Faye come nearer to the correct theory than any, but of the speculations of Laplace there remains little in the present theory beyond its general features.

Nevertheless, says John Stuart Mill.

There is in Laplace's theory nothing hypothetical, it is an example of legitimate reasoning from present effect to its past cause, it assumes nothing more than that objects which really exist obey the laws which are known to be obeyed by all terrestrial objects resembling them.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Smithsonian Contributions*, xxi, Art. I, pp 79-97

<sup>2</sup> *System of Logic*, p 229

From such an eminent logician as was Mill, this would be valuable, if it could only be proved that “terrestrial objects resembling” celestial objects at such a distance as are the *nebulæ*, *resemble those objects in reality, and not only in appearance.*

Another of the fallacies, from the Occult standpoint, embodied in the modern theory as it now stands, is the hypothesis that the Planets were all detached from the Sun, that they are bone of his bone, and flesh of his flesh, whereas the Sun and the Planets are only co-uterine brothers, having the same nebular origin, but in a different mode from that postulated by modern Astronomy.

The many objections raised by some opponents of the modern Nebular Theory against the homogeneity of original diffuse Matter, on the ground of the uniformity in the composition of the fixed Stars, do not affect the question of that homogeneity at all, but only the theory itself. Our solar nebula may not be completely homogeneous, or, rather, it may fail to reveal itself as such to the Astronomers, and yet be *de facto* homogeneous. The Stars do differ in their constituent materials, and even exhibit elements quite unknown on Earth; nevertheless, this does not affect the point that Primeval Matter—Matter as it *appeared even in its first* differentiation from its *laya*-condition<sup>1</sup>—is yet to this day homogeneous, at immense distances, in the depths of infinitude, and likewise at points not far removed from the outskirts of our Solar System

Finally, there does not exist one single fact brought forward by the learned objectors against the Nebular Theory (false as it is, and hence, *illogically enough*, fatal to the hypothesis of the homogeneity of Matter), that can withstand criticism. One error leads to another. A false premiss will naturally lead to a false conclusion, although an inadmissible inference does not *necessarily* affect the validity of the major proposition of the syllogism. Thus, one may leave every side-issue and inference from the evidence of spectra and lines, as simply provisional for the present, and abandon all matters of detail to Physical Science. The duty of the Occultist lies with the *Soul and Spirit* of Cosmic Space, not merely with its illusive appearance and behaviour. That of official Physical Science is to analyze and study its *shell*—the Ultima Thule of the Universe and Man, in the opinion of Materialism.

With the latter, Occultism has nought to do. It is only with the theories of such men of learning as Kepler, Kant, Oersted, and Sir W Herschel, who believed in a Spiritual World, that Occult Cosmogony might treat, and attempt a satisfactory compromise. But the views of those Physicists differed vastly

<sup>1</sup> Beyond the zero-lines of action

from the latest modern speculations. Kant and Herschel had in their mind's eye speculations upon the origin and *the final destiny*, as well as upon the present aspect, of the Universe, from a far more philosophical and psychic standpoint, whereas modern Cosmology and Astronomy now repudiate anything like research into the mysteries of Being. The result is what might be expected: complete failure and inextricable contradictions in the thousand and one varieties of so-called Scientific Theories, and in this Theory as in all others.

The nebular hypothesis, involving the theory of the existence of a Primeval Matter, diffused in a nebulous condition, is of no modern date in Astronomy, as everyone knows. Anaximenes, of the Ionian school, had already taught that the sidereal bodies were formed through the progressive condensation of a primordial *pregenetic* Matter, which had almost a negative weight, and was spread out through Space in an extremely sublimated condition.

Tycho Brahé, who viewed the Milky Way as an ethereal substance, thought the new star that appeared in Cassiopeia, in 1572, had been formed out of that Matter.<sup>1</sup> Kepler believed that the star of 1606 had likewise been formed out of the ethereal substance that fills the universe.<sup>2</sup> He attributed to that same Ether the apparition of a luminous ring round the Moon, during the total eclipse of the Sun observed at Naples in 1605.<sup>3</sup> Still later, in 1714 the existence of a self-luminous Matter was recognized by Halley in the *Philosophical Transactions*. Finally, the journal of this name published in 1811 the famous hypothesis of the eminent Astronomer, Sir W. Herschel, on the transformation of the nebulae into Stars,<sup>4</sup> and after this the Nebular Theory was accepted by the Royal Academies.

In *Five Years of Theosophy*, p. 245, may be read an article headed, "Do the Adepts deny the Nebular Theory?" The answer there given is:

No; they do not deny its general propositions, nor the approximative truth of the scientific hypotheses. They only deny the completeness of the present, as well as the entire error of the many so-called "exploded" old theories, which, during the last century, have followed each other in such rapid succession.

This was asserted at the time to be "an evasive answer." Such disrespect to official Science, it was argued, must be justified by the replacement of the *orthodox* speculation by another theory more complete, and having a firmer ground to stand upon. To this there is but one reply: It is useless to

<sup>1</sup> *Progymnasmata*, p. 795

<sup>2</sup> *De Stella Nova in Pede Serpentarii*, p. 115

<sup>3</sup> *Hypotheses Cosmogoniques*, p. 2, C. Wolf, 1886

<sup>4</sup> See *Philosophical Transactions*, p. 269, et seq.

give out isolated theories with regard to things embodied in a complete and consecutive system, for, when separated from the main body of the teaching, they would necessarily lose their vital coherence and would thus do no good when studied independently. To be able to appreciate and accept the Occult views on the Nebular Theory, we must study the whole Esoteric cosmogonical system. And the time has hardly arrived for the Astronomers to be asked to accept *Fohat* and the Divine Builders. Even the undeniably correct surmises of Sir W. Herschel, which had nothing “supernatural” in them, as to the Sun’s being called a “*globe of fire*,” perhaps *metaphorically*, and his early speculations about the nature of that which is now called the Nasmyth Willow-leaf Theory, only caused that most eminent of all Astronomers to be smiled at by other, far less eminent, colleagues, who saw and now see in his ideas purely “imaginative and fanciful theories.” Before the whole Esoteric System could be given out and appreciated by the Astronomers, the latter would have to return to some of those “antiquated ideas,” not only to those of Herschel, but also to the dreams of the oldest Hindu Astronomers, and thus abandon their own theories, which are none the less “fanciful” because they have appeared nearly eighty years later than the one, and many thousands of years later than the others. Foremost of all they would have to repudiate their ideas of the Sun’s *solidity* and *incandescence*, the Sun “glowing” most undeniably, but not “burning.” Then the Occultists state, with regard to the “willow-leaves,” that those “objects,” as Sir W. Herschel called them, are the immediate *sources of the solar light and heat*. And though the Esoteric Teaching does not regard these as he did—namely, as “organisms” partaking of the nature of life, for the Solar “Beings” will hardly place themselves within telescopic focus—yet it asserts that the whole Universe is full of such “organisms,” conscious and active according to the proximity or distance of their planes to, or from, our plane of consciousness; and finally that the great Astronomer was right while speculating on those supposed “organisms,” in saying that “we do not know that vital action is incompetent to develop at once heat, light, and electricity.” For, at the risk of being laughed at by the whole world of Physicists, the Occultists maintain that all the “Forces” of the Scientists have their origin in the *Vital Principle*, the ONE LIFE collectively of our Solar System—that “LIFE” being a portion, or rather one of the aspects, of the One Universal LIFE.

We may, therefore—as in the article under consideration, wherein, on the authority of the Adepts, it was maintained that it is “sufficient to make a *résumé* of what the solar Physicists do not know”—we may, we maintain, define our position with regard to the modern Nebular Theory and its evident

incorrectness, by simply pointing out facts diametrically opposed to it in its present form. And to begin with, what does it teach ?

Summarizing the aforesaid hypotheses, it becomes plain that Laplace's theory—now made quite unrecognizable, moreover—was an unfortunate one. He postulates in the first place Cosmic Matter, existing in a state of diffuse nebulosity "so fine that its presence could hardly have been suspected." No attempt is made by him to penetrate into the Arcana of Being, except as regards the immediate evolution of our small Solar System.

Consequently, whether one accepts or rejects his theory in its bearing upon the immediate cosmological problems presented for solution, he can only be said to have thrown back the mystery a little further. To the eternal query : " Whence Matter itself ; whence the evolutionary impetus determining its cyclic aggregations and dissolutions , whence the exquisite symmetry and order into which the primeval Atoms arrange and group themselves ? " no answer is attempted by Laplace. All we are confronted with, is a sketch of the *probable* broad principles on which the actual process is assumed to be based. Well, and what is this now celebrated note on the said process ? what has he given so wonderfully new and original, that its ground-work, at any rate, should have served as a basis for the modern Nebular Theory ? The following is what one gathers from various astronomical works.

Laplace thought that, in consequence of the condensation of the atoms of the primeval nebula, according to the " law " of gravity, the now gaseous, or perhaps, partially liquid mass, acquired a rotatory motion. As the velocity of this rotation increased, it assumed the form of a thin disc ; finally, the centrifugal force overpowering that of cohesion, huge rings were detached from the edge of the whirling incandescent masses, and these rings contracted necessarily by gravitation (as accepted) into spheroidal bodies, which would necessarily still continue to preserve the orbit previously occupied by the outer zone from which they were separated.<sup>1</sup> The velocity of the outer edge of each nascent planet, he said, exceeding that of the inner, there results a rotation on its axis. The more dense bodies would be thrown off last , and finally, during the preliminary state of their formation, the newly-segregated orbs in their turn throw off one or more satellites. In formulating the history of the rupture and planetation of rings Laplace says

Almost always each ring of vapours must have broken up into numerous masses, which, moving with a nearly uniform velocity, must have continued to circulate at the

<sup>1</sup> " Laplace conceived that the external and internal zones of the ring would rotate with the same angular velocity, which would be the case with a solid ring , but the principle of equal areas requires the inner zones to rotate more rapidly than the outer " (World-Life, p 121) Prof. Winchell points out a good many mistakes of Laplace , but as a geologist he is not infallible himself in his " astronomical speculations "

same distance around the sun. These masses must have taken a spheroidal form with a motion of rotation in the same direction as their revolution, since the inner molecules (those nearest the sun) would have less actual velocity than the exterior ones. They must then have formed as many planets in a state of vapour. But, if one of them was sufficiently powerful to unite successively, by its attraction, all the others around its centre, the ring of vapour must have been thus transformed into a single spheroidal mass of vapours circulating around the sun with a rotation in the same direction as its revolution. The latter case has been the more common, but the solar system presents us the first case, in the four small planets which move between Jupiter and Mars.

While few will be found to deny the "magnificent audacity of this hypothesis," it is impossible not to recognize the insurmountable difficulties with which it is attended. Why, for instance, do we find that the satellites of Neptune and Uranus display a retrograde motion? Why, in spite of its closer proximity to the Sun, is Venus less dense than the Earth? Why, again, is the more distant Uranus denser than Saturn? How is it that there are so many variations in the inclination of their axes and orbits in the supposed progeny of the central orb; that such startling variations in the size of the Planets are noticeable; that the satellites of Jupiter are more dense by 288 than their primary, that the phenomena of meteoric and cometary systems still remain unaccounted for? To quote the words of a Master:

They [the Adepts] find that the centrifugal theory of Western birth is unable to cover all the ground. That, unaided, it can neither account for every oblate spheroid, nor explain away such evident difficulties as are presented by the relative density of some planets. How, indeed, can any calculation of centrifugal force explain to us, for instance, why Mercury, whose rotation is, we are told, only "about one-third that of the Earth, and its density only about one-fourth greater than the Earth," should have a polar compression *more than ten times greater than the latter*? And again, why Jupiter, whose equatorial rotation is said to be "twenty-seven times greater, and its density only about one-fifth that of the Earth" should have its polar compression seventeen times greater than that of the Earth? Or why Saturn, with an equatorial velocity fifty-five times greater than Mercury for centripetal<sup>1</sup> force to contend with, should have its polar compression only three times greater than Mercury's? To crown the above contradictions, we are asked to believe in the Central Forces, as taught by modern Science, even when told that the equatorial matter of the sun, with more than four times the centrifugal velocity of the earth's equatorial surface, and only about one-fourth part of the gravitation of the equatorial matter, has not manifested any tendency to bulge at the solar equator, nor shown the least flattening at the poles of the solar axis. In other and clearer words, the sun, with only one-fourth of our

<sup>1</sup> Centrifugal, in the original text.

earth's density for the centrifugal force to work upon, has no polar compression at all! We find this objection made by more than one astronomer, yet never explained away satisfactorily, so far as the "Adepts" are aware.

Therefore, do they [the Adepts] say, that the great men of Science of the West, knowing . . . next to nothing either about cometary matter, centrifugal and centripetal forces, the nature of the nebulæ, or the physical constitution of the sun, the stars, or even the moon, are imprudent to speak so confidently as they do about the "central mass of the Sun," whirling out into space planets, comets, and what not. . . . We maintain that it [the Sun] evolves but the life principle, the soul of these bodies, *giving and receiving it back* in our little solar system, as the "Universal Life-Giver . . . in the Infinitude and Eternity, that the Solar System is as much the *Microcosm* of the One *Macrocosm* as man is the former when compared with his own little solar cosmos.<sup>1</sup>

The essential power of all the cosmic and terrestrial Elements to generate within themselves a regular and harmonious series of results, a concatenation of causes and effects, is an irrefutable proof that they are either animated by an INTELLIGENCE, *ab extra* or *ab intra* [inner or outer], or conceal such within or behind the "manifested veil." Occultism does not deny the certainty of the mechanical origin of the Universe, it only claims the absolute necessity of mechanicians of some sort behind or within those Elements—a dogma with us. It is not the fortuitous assistance of the Atoms of Lucretius, as he himself knew well, that built the Kosmos and all in it. Nature herself contradicts such a theory. Celestial Space, containing Matter so attenuated as Ether, cannot be called on, with or without attraction, to explain the common motion of the sidereal hosts. Although the perfect accord of their inter-revolution indicates clearly the presence of a mechanical cause in Nature, Newton, who of all men had most right to trust to his deductions, was nevertheless forced to abandon the idea of ever explaining the original impulse given to the millions of orbs, by merely the laws of *known* Nature and its material Forces. He recognized fully the limits that separate the action of natural Forces from that of the INTELLIGENCES that set the immutable laws in order and action. And if a Newton had to renounce such hope, which of the modern materialistic pigmies has the right of saying "I know better"?

A cosmogonical theory, to become complete and comprehensible, has to start with a Primordial Substance diffused throughout boundless Space, of an *intellectual and divine Nature*. That Substance must be the Soul and Spirit, the Synthesis and Seventh Principle of the manifested Kosmos, and, to serve

<sup>1</sup> *Five Years of Theosophy*, pp. 249-51, Art. "Do the Adepts deny the Nebular Theory?"

as a spiritual *Upādhi* to this, there must be the sixth, its vehicle—*primordial physical Matter*, so to speak, though its nature must escape for ever our limited *normal* senses. It is easy for an Astronomer, if endowed with an imaginative faculty, to build a theory of the emergence of the Universe out of Chaos, by simply applying to it the principles of mechanics. But such a Universe will always prove a Frankenstein's monster with respect to its scientific human creator ; it will lead him into endless perplexities. The application of mechanical laws only can never carry the speculator beyond the objective world ; nor will it unveil to men the origin and final destiny of Kosmos. This is whither the Nebular Theory has led Science. In sober fact and truth this Theory is twin sister to that of Ether, and both are the offspring of necessity, one is as indispensable to account for the transmission of light, as is the other to explain the problem of the origin of the Solar Systems. The question with Science is, how the same 'homogeneous Matter'<sup>1</sup> could, obeying the laws of Newton, give birth to bodies—Sun, Planets and their satellites—subject to conditions of identity of motion, and formed of such heterogeneous elements.

Has the Nebular Theory helped to solve the problem, even if applied solely to bodies considered as inanimate and material ? We say : most decidedly not. What progress has it made since 1811, when first Sir W. Herschel's paper, with its facts based on observation and showing the existence of nebular matter, made the sons of the Royal Society "shout for joy" ? Since then a still greater discovery, through spectrum analysis, has permitted the verification and corroboration of Sir W. Herschel's conjecture. Laplace demanded some kind of primitive "world-stuff" to prove the idea of progressive world-evolution and growth. Here it is, as offered two millenniums ago.

The "world-stuff," now called *nebulæ*, was known from the highest antiquity. Anaxagoras taught that, upon differentiation, the resulting commixture of heterogeneous substances remained motionless and unorganized, until finally the "Mind"—the collective body of Dhyân Chohans, we say—began to work upon, and communicated to, them motion and order." This theory is now taken up, so far as concerns its first portion : the last, that of any "Mind" interfering, being rejected. Spectrum analysis reveals the

<sup>1</sup> Had Astronomers, in their present state of knowledge, merely held to the hypothesis of Laplace, which was simply the formation of the Planetary System, it might in time have resulted in something like an approximate truth. But the two parts of the general problem—that of the formation of the Universe, or the formation of the Suns and Stars from the primitive Matter, and then the development of the Planets round their Sun—rest on quite different facts in Nature and are even so viewed by Science itself. They are at the opposite poles of Being.

<sup>2</sup> Aristotle's *Physics*, viii, 1



existence of nebulae formed entirely of gases and luminous vapours. Is this the primitive nebular Matter? The spectra reveal, it is said, the physical conditions of the Matter which emits cosmic light. The spectra of the resolvable and the irresolvable nebulae are shown to be entirely different, the spectra of the latter showing their physical state to be that of glowing gas or vapour. The bright lines of one nebula reveal the existence of hydrogen, and of other material substances known and unknown. The same as to the atmospheres of the Sun and Stars. This leads to the direct inference that a Star is formed by the condensation of a nebula; hence that even the metals themselves are formed on earth by the condensation of hydrogen or of some other primitive matter, some ancestral cousin to helium, perhaps, or some yet unknown stuff. *This does not clash with the Occult Teachings.* And this is the problem that Chemistry is trying to solve, and it must succeed sooner or later in the task, accepting *nolens volens*, when it does, the Esoteric Teaching. But when this does happen, it will kill the Nebular Theory as it now stands.

Meanwhile Astronomy cannot accept in any way, if it is to be regarded as an exact Science, the present theory of the filiation of Stars—even if Occultism does so in its own way, seeing that it explains this filiation differently—because Astronomy has *not one single physical datum* to show for it. Astronomy could anticipate Chemistry in proving the existence of the fact, if it could show a planetary nebula exhibiting a spectrum of three or four bright lines, gradually condensing and transforming into a Star, with a spectrum all covered with a number of dark lines. But

The question of the variability of the nebulae, even as to their form, is yet one of the mysteries of Astronomy. The data of observation possessed so far are of too recent an origin, too uncertain, to permit us to affirm anything.<sup>1</sup>

Since its discovery, the magic power of the spectroscope has revealed to its adepts only one single transformation of a Star of this kind, and even that showed directly the reverse of what is needed as proof in favour of the Nebular Theory; for it revealed *a Star transforming itself into a planetary nebula*. As related in *The Observatory*,<sup>2</sup> the temporary star, discovered by J.F.J.Schmidt in the constellation Cygnus, in November, 1876, exhibited a spectrum broken by very brilliant lines. Gradually, the continuous spectrum and most of the lines disappeared, leaving finally one single brilliant line, which appeared to coincide with the green line of the nebula.

Though this metamorphosis is not irreconcilable with the hypothesis of the nebular origin of the stars, nevertheless this single solitary case

<sup>1</sup> *Hypothèses Cosmogoniques*, p. 3, Wolf

<sup>2</sup> Vol. I, p. 185, quoted by Wolf, p. 3. Wolf's argument is here summarized

rests on no observation whatever, least of all on direct observation. The occurrence may have been due to several other causes. Since Astronomers are inclined to think our planets are tending toward precipitation into the sun, why should not that star have blazed up owing to a collision of such precipitated planets, or, as many suggest, the appulse of a comet? Be that as it may, the only known instance of star-transformation since 1811 is not favourable to the Nebular Theory. Moreover on the question of this Theory, as on all others, Astronomers disagree.

In our own age, and before Laplace ever thought of it, Buffon, being very much struck by the identity of motion in the planets, was the first to propose the hypothesis that the planets and their satellites originated in the bosom of the sun. Forthwith and for this purpose, he invented a special comet, supposed to have torn out, by a powerful oblique blow, the quantity of matter necessary for their formation. Laplace gave its dues to the "comet" in his *Exposition du Système du Monde*.<sup>1</sup> But the idea was seized and even improved upon by a conception of the alternate evolution, from the sun's central mass, of planets *apparently* without weight or influence on the motion of the visible planets—and as evidently without any more existence than the likeness of Moses in the moon.

But the modern theory is also a variation on the systems elaborated by Kant and Laplace. The idea of both was that, at the origin of things, all that Matter which now enters into the composition of the planetary bodies was spread over all the space comprized in the Solar System—and even beyond. It was a nebula of extremely small density, and its condensation gradually gave birth, by a mechanism that has hitherto never been explained, to the various bodies of our System. This is the original Nebular Theory, an *incomplete* yet faithful repetition—a short chapter out of the large volume of universal Esoteric Cosmogony—of the teachings of the SECRET DOCTRINE. And both systems, Kant's and Laplace's, differ greatly from the modern Theory, redundant with conflicting *sub-theories* and fanciful hypotheses. Say the Teachers :

The essence of cometary matter [and of that which composes the Stars] . . . is—totally different from any of the chemical or physical characteristics with which the greatest Chemists and Physicists of the earth are familiar. . . . While the spectroscope has shown the probable similarity [owing to the chemical action of terrestrial light upon the intercepted rays] of terrestrial and sidereal substance, the chemical actions peculiar to the variously progressed orbs of space have not been detected, nor proven to be identical with those observed on our own planet.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Note vii, Summarized from Wolf, p. 6.

<sup>2</sup> *Five Years of Theosophy*, pp. 241-2, and 239.

Prof. Crookes says almost the same in the fragment quoted from his lecture, *Elements and Meta-Elements*. C. Wolf, Member of the Institute, Astronomer of the Observatory, Paris, observes .

At the utmost the nebular hypothesis can only show in its favour, with W Herschel, the existence of planetary nebulae in various degrees of condensation, and of spiral nebulae, with nuclei of condensation on the branches and centre <sup>1</sup> But, in fact, the knowledge of the bond that unites the nebulae to the stars is yet denied to us, and lacking as we do direct observation, we are even debarred from establishing it on the analogy of chemical composition <sup>2</sup>

Even if the men of Science—leaving aside the difficulty arising out of such undeniable variety and heterogeneity of matter in the constitution of nebulae—did admit, with the Ancients, that the origin of all the visible and invisible heavenly bodies must be sought for in one primordial homogeneous world-stuff, in a kind of *Pre-Protyle*,<sup>3</sup> it is evident that this would not put an end to their perplexities. Unless they admit also that our actual visible Universe is merely the *Sthûla Sharîra*, the gross body, of the sevenfold Kosmos, they will have to face another problem, especially if they venture to maintain that its now visible bodies are the result of the condensation of that one and single Primordial Matter. For mere observation shows them that the operations which produced the actual Universe are far more complex than could ever be embraced in that theory.

First of all, there are two distinct classes of *irresolvable* nebulae, as Science itself teaches.

The telescope is unable to distinguish between these two classes, but the spectroscope can do so, and notices an essential difference between their physical constitutions.

The question of the resolvability of the nebulae has been often presented in too affirmative a manner and quite contrary to the ideas expressed by the illustrious experimenter with the spectra of these constellations—Mr Huggins. Every nebula whose spectrum contains only bright lines is gaseous, it is said, and hence is irresolvable, every nebula with a continuous spectrum must end by resolving into stars with an instrument of sufficient power. This assumption is contrary at once to the results obtained, and to spectroscopic theory. The “Lyra” nebula, the “Dumb-bell” nebula, the central region of the nebula of Orion, appear resolvable, and show a spectrum of bright lines, the nebula of Canes Venatici is not resolvable, and gives a continuous spectrum. Because, indeed, the spectroscope informs us of the physical state of the constituent matter of

<sup>1</sup> But the spectra of these nebulae have never yet been ascertained. When they are found with bright lines, then only may they be cited.

<sup>2</sup> *Hypothèses Cosmogoniques*, p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Prof. Crookes’ “Protyle” must not be regarded as the *primary* stuff, out of which the Dhyan Chohans, in accordance with the immutable laws of Nature, wove our Solar System. This Protyle cannot even be the *prima materia* of Kant, which that great mind saw used up in the formation of the worlds, and thus existing no longer in a diffused state. Protyle is a *mediate* phase in the progressive differentiation of Cosmic Substance from its normal undifferentiated state. It is, then, the aspect assumed by Matter in its middle passage into full objectivity.

the stars, but affords us no notions of their modes of aggregation. A nebula formed of gaseous globes (or even of nuclei, faintly luminous, surrounded by a powerful atmosphere) would give a spectrum of lines and be still resolvable, such seems to be the state of Huggins' region in the Orion nebula. A nebula formed of solid or fluidic particles in a state of incandescence, a true cloud, will give a continuous spectrum and will be irresolvable.

Some of these *nebulæ*, Wolf tells us,

Have a spectrum of three or four bright lines, others a continuous spectrum. The first are gaseous, the others formed of a pulverulent matter. The former must constitute a veritable atmosphere: it is among these that the solar nebula of Laplace has to be placed. The latter form an *ensemble* of particles that may be considered as independent, and the rotation of which obeys the laws of internal weight: such are the *nebulæ* adopted by Kant and Faye. Observation allows us to place the one as the other at the very origin of the planetary world. But when we try to go beyond and ascend to the primitive chaos which has produced the totality of the heavenly bodies, we have first to account for the actual existence of these two classes of *nebulæ*. If the primitive chaos were a cold luminous gas,<sup>1</sup> one could understand how the contraction resulting from attraction could have heated it and made it luminous. We have to explain the condensation of this gas to the state of incandescent particles, the presence of which is revealed to us in certain *nebulæ* by the spectroscope. If the original chaos was composed of such particles, how did certain of their portions pass into the gaseous state, while others have preserved their primitive condition?

Such is the synopsis of the objections and difficulties in the way of the acceptance of the Nebular Theory, brought forward by the French *savant*, who concludes this interesting argument by declaring that:

The first part of the cosmogonical problem—what is the primitive matter of chaos, and how did that matter give birth to the sun and stars?—thus remains to this day in the domain of romance and of mere imagination.<sup>2</sup>

If this is the last word of Science upon the subject, whither then should we turn in order to learn what the Nebular Theory, is supposed to teach? What, in fact, is this theory? What it *is*, no one seems to know for certain. What it is *not*—we learn from the erudite author of *World-Life*. He tells us that.

(i) *It is not a theory of the evolution of the Universe*. It is primarily a genetic explanation of the phenomena of the solar system, and accessorially a co-ordination in a common conception, of the principal phenomena in the stellar and nebular firmament, as far as human vision has been able to penetrate.

(ii) *It does not regard the Comets as involved in that particular evolution which has produced the Solar System*. [The Esoteric Doctrine does, because it, too, "recognizes the comets as forms of cosmic existence co-ordinated with earlier stages of nebular evolution", and it actually assigns to them chiefly the formation of all worlds.]

<sup>1</sup> See STANZA 3, commentary 9, about "Light," or "cold Flame," where it is explained that the "Mother"—Chaos—is a cold Fire, a cool Radiance, colourless, formless, devoid of every quality. "Motion, as the One Eternal, IS, and contains the potentialities of every quality in the Manvantaric Worlds," it is said.

<sup>2</sup> *Hypothèses Cosmogoniques*, pp. 4, 5.

(iii) *It does not deny an antecedent history of the luminous fire mist—[the secondary stage of evolution in the Secret Doctrine] [and] . . . makes no claim to having reached an absolute beginning [And even it allows that this] fire mist may have previously existed in a cold, non-luminous and invisible condition*

(iv) *[And that finally] it does not profess to discover the ORIGIN of things, but only a stadium in material history . . . [leaving] the philosopher and the theologian as free as they ever were to seek the origin of the modes of being*<sup>1</sup>

But this is not all. Even the greatest philosopher of England—Mr. Herbert Spencer—arrayed himself against this fantastic theory by saying that (a) “ The problem of existence is not resolved ” by it ; (b) the nebular hypothesis throws no light upon the origin of diffused matter ” ; and (c) that “ the nebular hypothesis (as it now stands) implies a First Cause.”<sup>2</sup>

The latter, we are afraid, is more than our modern Physicists have bargained for. Thus, it seems that the poor “ hypothesis ” can hardly expect to find help or corroboration even in the world of the Metaphysicians.

Considering all this, the Occultists believe they have a right to present *their* Philosophy, however misunderstood and ostracized it may be at present. And they maintain that this failure of the Scientists to discover the truth is entirely due to their Materialism and their contempt for transcendental Sciences. Yet although the scientific minds in our century are as far from the true and correct doctrine of Evolution as ever, there may be still some hope left for the future, for even now we find another Scientist giving us a faint glimmer of it.

In an article in the *Popular Science Review* on “ Recent Researches in Minute Life,” we find Mr. H.J.Slack, F C S , Sec. R M.S., saying :

There is an evident convergence of all sciences, from physics to chemistry and physiology, toward some doctrine of evolution and development, of which the facts of Darwinism will form part, but what ultimate aspect this doctrine will take there is little, if any, evidence to show, and perhaps it will not be shaped by the human mind until metaphysical as well as physical inquiries are much more advanced<sup>3</sup>

This is a happy forecast indeed. The day may come, then, when “ Natural Selection,” as taught by Mr Darwin and Mr Herbert Spencer, will, in its ultimate modification, form only a *part* of our Eastern doctrine of Evolution, which will be Manu and Kapila *Esoterically explained*.

<sup>1</sup> *Winchell World-Life*, p 196.

<sup>2</sup> *Westminster Review*, XX, July 27, 1868.

<sup>3</sup> Vol. xiv, p 252

## SECTION 13

### FORCES—MODES OF MOTION OR INTELLIGENCES

THIS is, then, the last word of Physical Science up to the present year, 1888. Mechanical laws will never be able to prove the homogeneity of Primeval Matter, except inferentially and as a desperate necessity, when there will remain no other issue—as in the case of Ether. Modern Science is secure only in its own domain and region ; within the physical boundaries of our Solar System, beyond which everything, every particle of Matter, is different from the Matter it knows, and where Matter exists in states of which Science can form no idea. *This* matter, which is truly homogeneous, is beyond human perception, if perception is tied down merely to the five senses. We feel its effects through those INTELLIGENCES which are the results of its primeval differentiation, whom we name Dhyân Chohans, called in the Hermetic works the “ Seven Governors ”, those to whom Pymander, the “ Thought Divine,” refers as the “ Building Powers,” and whom Asklepios calls the “ Supernal Gods.” This Matter—the real Primordial Substance, the Noumenon of all the “ matter ” we know of—some of our Astronomers even have been led to believe in, for they despair of the possibility of ever accounting for rotation, gravitation, and the origin of any mechanical physical laws, unless these INTELLIGENCES be admitted by Science. In the above-quoted work upon Astronomy by Wolf,<sup>1</sup> the author endorses fully the theory of Kant, and the latter theory, if not in its general aspect, at any rate in some of its features, reminds one strongly of certain Esoteric Teachings. Here we have the world’s system *reborn from its ashes*, through a nebula—the emanation from the bodies, dead and dissolved in Space, resultant of the *incandescence* of the Solar Centre—re-animated by the combustible matter of the Planets. In this theory, generated and developed in the brain of a young man hardly twenty-five years of age, who had never left his native place, Königsberg, a small town of Northern Prussia, one can hardly fail

<sup>1</sup> *Les Hypothèses Cosmogoniques*

to recognize either the presence of an inspiring external power, or an evidence of the *reincarnation* which the Occultists see in it. It fills a gap which Newton, with all his genius, failed to bridge. And surely it is our Primeval Matter, Âkâsha, that Kant had in view, when he postulated a universally pervading primordial Substance, in order to solve Newton's difficulty, and his failure to explain, by natural forces alone, the primitive impulse imparted to the planets. For, as he remarks in Chapter viii, if it is once admitted that the perfect harmony of the Stars and Planets and the coincidence of their orbital planes prove the existence of a natural Cause, which would thus be the primal Cause, "that Cause cannot really be the matter which fills to-day the heavenly spaces." It must be that which filled Space—was Space—originally, whose motion in differentiated Matter was the origin of the actual movements of the sidereal bodies, and which, "in condensing itself in those very bodies, thus abandoned the space that is to-day found void." In other words, it is of that same Matter that are now composed the planets, comets, and the Sun himself, and that Matter, having originally formed itself into those bodies, has preserved its inherent quality of motion; which quality, now centred in their nuclei, directs all motion. A very slight alteration of words in this is needed, and a few additions, to make of it our Esoteric Doctrine.

The latter teaches that it is this original, primordial *Prima Materia*, divine and intelligent, the direct emanation of the Universal Mind, the Daiviprakriti—the Divine Light<sup>1</sup> emanating from the Logos—which formed the nuclei of all the "self-moving" orbs in Kosmos. It is the informing, ever-present moving-power and life-principle, the vital Soul of the Suns, Moons, Planets, and even of our Earth; the former latent, the latter active—the invisible Ruler and Guide of the gross body attached to, and connected with, its Soul, which is the spiritual emanation, after all, of these respective Planetary Spirits.

Another quite Occult Doctrine is the theory of Kant, that the Matter of which the inhabitants and the animals of other Planets are formed is of a *lighter and more subtle nature and of a more perfect conformation, in proportion to their distance from the Sun*. The latter is too full of Vital Electricity, of the physical, life-giving principle. Therefore, the men on Mars are more ethereal than we are, while those on Venus are more gross, though far more intelligent, if less spiritual.

The last doctrine is not quite ours—yet these Kantian theories are as metaphysical, and as transcendental as any Occult Doctrines; and more than one man of Science would, if he but *dared* speak his mind, accept them as Wolf does. From this Kantian Mind and Soul of the Suns and Stars to the

<sup>1</sup> Which "Light" we call *Fohat*

MAHAT (Mind) and Prakriti of the *Purânas* there is but a step. After all, the admission of this by Science would be only the admission of a natural cause, whether it would or would not stretch its belief to such metaphysical heights. But then Mahat, the MIND, is a "God," and Physiology admits "mind" only as a temporary function of the material brain, and no more.

The Satan of Materialism now laughs at all alike, and denies the visible as well as the invisible. Seeing in light, heat, electricity, and even in the phenomenon of *life*, only properties inherent in Matter, it laughs whenever life is called the VITAL PRINCIPLE, and derides the idea of its being independent of and distinct from the organism.

But here again scientific opinions differ as in everything else, and there are several men of Science who accept views very similar to ours. Consider, for instance, what Dr. Richardson, FRS (elsewhere quoted at length) says of that "Vital Principle," which he calls "Nervous Ether":

I speak only of a veritable *material agent*, refined, it may be, to the world at large, but *actual and substantial* an agent having quality of weight and of volume, an agent susceptible of chemical combination, and thereby of change of physical state and condition, an agent passive in its action, moved always, that is to say, by influences apart from itself,<sup>1</sup> obeying other influences, an agent possessing no initiative power, no *vis* or *energeia naturæ*<sup>2</sup> but still playing a most important, if not a primary part in the production of the phenomena resulting from the action of the *energeia* upon visible matter<sup>3</sup>

As Biology and Physiology now deny, *in toto*, the existence of a Vital Principle, this extract, together with De Quatrefages' admission, is a clear confirmation that there are men of Science who take the same views about "things Occult" as do Theosophists and Occultists. These recognize a distinct Vital Principle independent of the organism—material, of course, as *physical Force cannot be divorced from Matter*, but of a Substance existing in a state unknown to Science. *Life for them is something more than the mere interaction of molecules and atoms*. There is a Vital Principle without which no molecular combinations could ever have resulted in a living organism, least of all in the so-called "inorganic" Matter of our plane of consciousness.

By "molecular combinations" are meant, of course, those of the Matter of our present illusive perceptions, which Matter energizes only on this, our plane. And this is the chief point at issue.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is a mistake, which implies a material agent, distinct from the influences which move it, i.e., blind matter and perhaps "God" again, whereas this ONE Life is the very God and Gods "Itself"

<sup>2</sup> The same error

<sup>3</sup> *Popular Science Review*, Vol. x

<sup>4</sup> "Is the Jiva a myth, as Science says, or is it not?" ask some Theosophists, wavering between materialistic and idealistic Science. The difficulty of really grasping Esoteric problems concerning the "ultimate state of Matter" is again the old crux of the *objective* and the *subjective*. What is Matter? Is the Matter of our present objective consciousness anything but our *sensations*? True, the sensations we receive come from without, but can we really—except in terms of phenomena—



Thus the Occultists are not alone in their beliefs. Nor are they so foolish, after all, in rejecting even the "gravity" of modern Science along with other *physical* laws, and in accepting instead *attraction* and *repulsion*. They see, moreover, in these two opposite Forces only the two *aspects* of the Universal Unit, called MANIFESTING MIND, in which aspects, Occultism, through its great Seers, perceives an innumerable Host of operative Beings: Cosmic Dhyân Chohans, Entities, whose essence, in its *dual* nature, is the Cause of all terrestrial phenomena. For that essence is consubstantial with the universal Electric Ocean, which is LIFE, and being dual, as said—positive and negative—it is the emanations of that duality that act now on Earth under the name of "modes of motion"; even Force having now become objectionable as a word, for fear it should lead someone, even in thought, to separate it from Matter! It is, as Occultism says, the dual effects of that dual essence, which have now been called centripetal and centrifugal forces, now negative and positive poles, or polarity, heat and cold, light and darkness, etc.

And it is further maintained that even the Greek and Roman Catholic Christians are wiser in believing, as they do—even if blindly connecting and tracing them all to an anthropomorphic God—in Angels, Archangels, Archons, Seraphs, and Morning Stars, in all those theological *deliciæ humani generis* [delights of the human race], in short, that rule the Cosmic Elements, than Science is, in disbelieving in them altogether, and in advocating its mechanical Forces. For these act very often with more than human intelligence and pertinency. Nevertheless, that intelligence is denied and attributed to blind chance. But, as De Maistre was right in calling the law of gravitation merely a word which replaced "the thing unknown," so are we right in applying the same remark to all the other Forces of Science. And if it is objected that the Count was an ardent Roman Catholic, then we may cite Le Couturier, as ardent a Materialist, who said the same thing, as did also Herschel and many others<sup>1</sup>

From Gods to men, from Worlds to atoms, from a Star to a rush-light, from the Sun to the vital heat of the meanest organic being—the world of Form and Existence is an immense chain, the links of which are all connected. The Law of Analogy is the first key to the world-problem, and these links have to be studied co-ordinately in their Occult relations to each other.

speaking of the "gross matter" of this plane as an entity apart from and independent of us? To all such arguments Occultism answers True, in *reality* Matter is not independent of, or existent outside, our perceptions. Man is an *illusion* granted. But the existence and actuality of other, still more illusive, but not less *actual*, entities than we are, is not a claim which is lessened, but rather strengthened, by this doctrine of Vedântic and even Kantian Idealism

<sup>1</sup> See *Musée des Sciences*, August, 1856.

When, therefore, the SECRET DOCTRINE—postulating that conditioned or limited space (location) has no real being except in this world of illusion, or, in other words, in our perceptive faculties—teaches that every one of the higher, as of the lower worlds, is interblended with our own objective world ; that millions of things and beings are, in point of localization, around and *in* us, as we are around, with, and in them ; this is no mere metaphysical figure of speech, but a sober fact in Nature, however incomprehensible to our senses.

But one has to understand the phraseology of Occultism before criticizing what it asserts. For example, the Doctrine refuses—as Science does, in one sense—to use the words “above” and “below,” “higher” and “lower,” in reference to *invisible* spheres, since here they are without meaning. Even the terms “East” and “West” are merely conventional, necessary only to aid our human perceptions. For though the Earth has its two fixed points in the poles, North and South, yet both East and West are variable relatively to our own position on the Earth’s surface, and in consequence of its rotation from West to East. Hence, when “other worlds” are mentioned—whether better or worse, more spiritual or still more material, though both invisible—the Occultist does not locate *these spheres* either *outside* or *inside* our Earth, as the theologians and the poets do, for their location is nowhere in the space *known* to, or conceived by, the profane. They are, as it were, blended with our world—interpenetrating it and interpenetrated by it. There are millions and millions of worlds and firmaments visible to us ; there are still greater numbers beyond those visible to the telescope, and many of the latter kind do not belong to our *objective* sphere of existence. Although as invisible as if they were millions of miles beyond our Solar System, they are yet with us, near us, *within* our own world, as objective and material to their respective inhabitants as ours is to us. But, again, the relation of these worlds to ours is not that of a series of egg-shaped boxes enclosed one within the other, like the toys called Chinese nests, each is entirely under its own special laws and conditions, having no direct relation to our sphere. The inhabitants of these, as already said, may be, for all we know, or feel, passing *through* and *around* us as if through empty space, their very habitations and countries being interblended with ours, though not disturbing our vision, because we have not yet the faculties necessary for discerning them. Yet by their spiritual sight the Adepts, and even some seers and sensitives, are always able to discern, whether in a greater or smaller degree, the presence and close proximity to us of Beings pertaining to other spheres of life. Those of the spiritually higher worlds communicate

only with those terrestrial mortals who ascend to them, through individual efforts, on to the higher plane they are occupying.

The sons of Bhûmi [Earth] regard the Sons of Deva-lokas [Angelspheres] as their Gods; and the Sons of lower kingdoms look up to the men of Bhûmi as to their Devas [Gods], men remaining unaware of it in their blindness. They [men] tremble before them while using them [for magical purposes]. The first Race of Men were the "Mind-born Sons" of the former. They [the Pitris and Devas] are our progenitors.<sup>1</sup>

"Educated people," so-called, deride the idea of Sylphs, Salamanders, Undines, and Gnomes; the men of Science regard any mention of such superstitions as an insult, and with a contempt of logic and common good sense, that is often the prerogative of "accepted authority," they allow those, whom it is their duty to instruct, to labour under the absurd impression that in the whole Kosmos, or at any rate in our own atmosphere, there are no other conscious, intelligent beings, save ourselves.<sup>2</sup> Any other humanity (composed of distinct human beings) save a mankind with two legs, two arms, and a head with man's features on it, would not be called human, though the etymology of the word would seem to have little to do with the general appearance of a creature. Thus, while Science sternly rejects even the possibility of there being such (to us, generally) invisible creatures, Society, while believing in it all secretly, is made to deride the idea openly. It hails with mirth such works as the *Comte de Gabalis*, and fails to understand that *open satire is the securest mask*.

Nevertheless, such invisible worlds do exist. Inhabited as thickly as is our own, they are scattered throughout apparent Space in immense numbers; some far more material than our own world, others gradually etherealizing until they become formless and are as "*Breaths*." The fact that our physical eye does not see them, is no reason for disbelieving in them. Physicists cannot see their Ether, Atoms, "modes of motion," or Forces. Yet they accept and teach them.

If we find, even in the natural world with which we are acquainted, Matter affording a partial analogy to the difficult conception of such invisible worlds, there seems little difficulty in recognizing the possibility of such a presence. The tail of a comet, which, though attracting our attention by virtue of its luminosity, yet does not disturb or impede our vision of objects, which we perceive through and beyond it, affords the first stepping-stone

<sup>1</sup> Book II, of the *Commentary on the BOOK OF DZIAN*

<sup>2</sup> Even the question of the plurality of worlds inhabited by sentient creatures is rejected, or is approached with the greatest caution.<sup>1</sup> And yet see what the great astronomer, Camille Flammarion, says in his *Pluralité des Mondes*.

toward a proof of the same. The tail of a comet passes rapidly across our horizon, and we should neither feel it, nor be cognizant of its passage, but for the brilliant coruscation, often perceived only by a few interested in the phenomenon, while everyone else remains ignorant of its presence and of its passage *through*, or across, a portion of our globe. This tail may, or may not, be an integral portion of the being of the comet, but its tenuity subserves our purpose as an illustration. Indeed, it is no question of superstition, but simply a result of transcendental Science, and of logic still more, to admit the existence of worlds formed of even far more attenuated Matter than the tail of a comet. By denying such a possibility, Science has for the last century played into the hands of neither Philosophy nor true Religion, but simply into those of Theology. To be able to dispute the better the plurality of even material worlds, a belief thought by many churchmen incompatible with the teachings and doctrines of the *Bible*,<sup>1</sup> Maxwell had to calumniate the memory of Newton, and to try and convince his public that the principles contained in the Newtonian philosophy are those "which lie at the foundation of all atheistical systems."<sup>2</sup>

"Dr. Whewell disputed the plurality of worlds by appeal to scientific evidence," writes Professor Winchell.<sup>3</sup> And if even the habitability of physical worlds, of planets, and distant stars which shine in myriads over our heads is so disputed, how little chance is there for the acceptance of invisible worlds within the apparently transparent space of our own!

But, if we can conceive of a world composed of Matter still more attenuated (to *our* senses) than the tail of a comet, hence of inhabitants in it who are as ethereal, in proportion to *their* Globe, as we are in comparison with *our* rocky, hard-cruled Earth, no wonder if we do not perceive them, nor sense their presence or even existence. Only, in what is the idea contrary to Science? Cannot men and animals, plants and rocks, be supposed to be endowed with quite a different set of senses from those we possess? Cannot their organisms be born, develop, and exist, under other laws of being than those that rule our little world? Is it absolutely necessary that every corporeal being should be clothed in "coats of skin" like those that Adam and Eve were provided with in the legend of *Genesis*? Corporeality, we are told, however, by more than one man of Science, "may exist under very divergent conditions."

<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, it may be shown on the testimony of the *Bible* itself, and of such good Christian theologians as Cardinal Wiseman, that this plurality is taught in both the *Old* and the *New Testaments*.

<sup>2</sup> See *Plurality of Worlds*, Vol. II

<sup>3</sup> See on this *La Pluralité des Mondes Habités*, par C. Flammarion, wherein is given a list of the many men of Science who have written to prove the theory

[Professor A. Winchell—arguing upon the plurality of worlds—makes the following remarks :

It is not at all improbable that substances of a refractory nature might be so mixed with other substances, known or unknown to us, as to be capable of enduring vastly greater vicissitudes of heat and cold than is, possible with terrestrial organisms. The tissues of terrestrial animals are simply suited to terrestrial conditions. Yet even here we find different types and species of animals adapted to the trials of extremely dissimilar situations. That an animal should be a quadruped or a biped is something not depending on the necessities of organization, or instinct, or intelligence. That an animal should possess just five senses is not a necessity of percipient existence. There may be animals on the earth which neither smell nor taste. There may be beings on other worlds, and even on this, who possess more numerous senses than we. The possibility of this is apparent when we consider the high probability that other properties and other modes of existence lie among the resources of the cosmos, and even of terrestrial matter. There are animals which subsist where rational man would perish—in the soil, in the river, and the sea. [and why not *human* beings of different organizations, in such case ?] Nor is incorporated rational existence conditioned on warm blood, nor on any temperature which does not change the forms of matter of which the organism may be composed. There may be intelligences corporealized after some concept not involving the processes of ingestion, assimilation, and reproduction. Such bodies would not require daily food and warmth. They might be lost in the abysses of the ocean, or laid up on a stormy cliff through the tempests of an Arctic winter, or plunged in a volcano for a hundred years, and yet retain consciousness and thought. It is conceivable. Why might not psychic natures be enshrined in indestructible flint and platinum ? These substances are no further from the nature of intelligence than carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and lime. But, not to carry the thought to such an extreme [?], might not high intelligence be embodied in frames as indifferent to external conditions as the sage of the western plains, or the lichens of Labrador, the rotifers which remain dried for years or the bacteria which pass living through boiling water. These suggestions are made simply to remind the reader how little can be argued respecting the necessary conditions of intelligent, organized existence, from the standard of corporeal existence found upon the earth. Intelligence is, from its nature, as universal and as uniform as the laws of the universe. Bodies are merely the local fitting of intelligence to particular modifications of universal matter and force<sup>1</sup>]

Do not we know through the discoveries of that same all-denying Science that we are surrounded by myriads of invisible lives ? If these microbes, bacteria and the *tutti quanti* of the infinitesimally small, are invisible to us by virtue of their minuteness, cannot there be, at the other pole, beings as invisible owing to the quality of their texture or matter—to its tenuity, in fact ? Conversely, as to the effects of cometary matter, have we not another example of a half visible form of Life and Matter ? The ray of sunlight entering our apartment reveals in its passage myriads of tiny beings

<sup>1</sup> *World-Life*, pp 497-500, et seq

living their little life and ceasing to be, independent and heedless of whether they are or are not perceived by our grosser materiality. And so again, of the microbes and bacteria and such-like unseen beings in other elements. We passed them by, during those long centuries of dreary ignorance, after the lamp of knowledge in the heathen and highly philosophical systems had ceased to throw its bright light on the ages of intolerance and bigotry of early Christianity, and we would fain pass them by again now

And yet these *lives* surrounded us *then* as they do now. They have worked on, obedient to their own laws, and it is only as they have been gradually revealed by Science that we have begun to take cognizance of them and of the effects produced by them.

How long has it taken the world to become what it now is? If it can be said that even up to the present day cosmic dust, "which has never belonged to the earth before,"<sup>1</sup> reaches our Globe, how much more logical is it to believe—as the Occultists do—that through the countless millions of years that have rolled away since that dust aggregated and formed the Globe we live in round its *nucleus* of *intelligent* Primeval Substance, many humanities—differing from our present mankind as greatly as the humanity which will evolve millions of years hence will differ from our races—appeared but to disappear from the face of the Earth, as will our own. These primitive and far-distant humanities are denied, because, as Geologists think, they have left no tangible relics of themselves. All trace of them is swept away, and therefore they have never existed. Yet their relics—though very few of them, truly—are to be found, and they must be discovered by geological research. But, even if they were never to be met with, there would be no reason to say that no men could have ever lived in the geological periods to which their presence on earth is assigned. For their organisms needed no warm blood, no atmosphere, no feeding, the author of *World-Life* is right, and there is no extravagance in believing as we do, that as, on scientific hypotheses, there may be to this day "psychic natures enshrined in indestructible flint and platinum," so there were psychic natures enshrined in forms of equally *indestructible* Primeval Matter—the real forefathers of our Fifth Race.

When, therefore, as in Volumes 3 and 4, we speak of men who inhabited this Globe 18,000,000 years ago, we have in mind neither the men of our present races, nor the present atmospheric laws, thermal conditions, etc. The Earth and Mankind, like the Sun, Moon, and Planets, all have their growth, changes, development, and gradual evolution in their life-periods; they are born, become infants, then children, adolescent, grown-up, they grow old,

<sup>1</sup> *World-Life*.

and finally die Why should not Mankind be also under this universal law ?  
Says Uriel to Enoch :

Behold, I have showed thee all things, O Enoch . . . Thou seest the sun, the moon, and those which conduct the stars of heaven, which cause all their operations, seasons, and arrivals to return In the days of sinners the years shall be shortened everything done on earth shall be subverted the moon shall change its laws <sup>1</sup>

The “ days of sinners ” meant the days when Matter would be in its full sway on Earth, and man would have reached the apex of physical development in stature and animality That came to pass during the period of the Atlanteans, about the middle point of their Race, the Fourth, which was drowned, as prophesied by Uriel Since then man has been decreasing in physical stature, strength, and years, as will be shown in Volumes 3 and 4. But as we are at the mid-point of our *sub-race* of the Fifth Root-Race—the acme of materiality in each—the animal propensities, though more refined, are none the less developed , and this is most marked in civilized countries.

<sup>1</sup> *The Book of Enoch* Trans by Archbishop Laurence, lxxix.

## SECTION 14

### GODS, MONADS AND ATOMS

SOME years ago we remarked that :

The Esoteric Doctrine may well be called . . . the “ thread doctrine,” since, like Sûtrâtmâ [in the Vedânta Philosophy<sup>1</sup>], it passes through and strings together all the ancient philosophical religious systems, and reconciles and explains them<sup>2</sup>

We now say it does more. It not only reconciles the various and apparently conflicting systems, but it checks the discoveries of modern exact Science, showing some of them to be necessarily correct, since they are found corroborated in the Ancient Records. All this will, no doubt, be regarded as terribly impertinent and disrespectful, a veritable crime of *lèse-science* ; nevertheless, it is a fact

Science is, undeniably, ultra-materialistic in our days ; but it finds, in one sense, its justification Nature behaving ever esoterically *in actu*, and being, as the Kabalists say, *in abscondito*, can only be judged by the profane through her appearance, and that appearance is always deceitful on the physical plane. On the other hand, the Naturalists refuse to blend Physics with Metaphysics, the Body with its informing Soul and Spirit. They prefer to ignore the latter. This is a matter of choice with some, while the minority very sensibly strive to enlarge the domain of Physical Science by trespassing on the forbidden grounds of Metaphysics, so distasteful to some Materialists. These Scientists are wise in their generation For all their wonderful discoveries will go for nothing, and remain for ever *headless* bodies, unless they lift the veil of Matter and strain their eyes to see *beyond* Now that they have studied Nature in the length, breadth, and thickness of her physical frame, it is time to remove the skeleton to the second plane, and search within the unknown depths for the living and real entity, for its SUB-stance—the noumenon of evanescent Matter.

<sup>1</sup> The Âtmâ, or Spirit, the Spiritual SELF, passing like a thread through the five Subtle Bodies, or Principles, Koshas, is called “ Thread-soul,” or Sûtrâtmâ in Vedântic Philosophy

<sup>2</sup> *Five Years of Theosophy*, “ The Septenary Principle,” p 197



It is only by acting along such lines that some truths, now called " exploded superstitions," will be discovered to be facts, and the relics of ancient knowledge and wisdom.

One of such " degrading " beliefs—degrading in the opinion of the all-denying sceptic—is found in the idea that Kosmos, besides its objective planetary inhabitants, its humanities in other inhabited worlds, is full of invisible, intelligent *Existences*. The so-called Arch-Angels, Angels and Spirits, of the West, copies of their prototypes, the Dhyân Chohans, the Devas and Pitris, of the East, are not real Beings, but fictions. On this point materialistic Science is inexorable. To support its position, it upsets its own axiomatic law of uniformity and of continuity in the laws of Nature, and all the logical sequence of analogies in the evolution of Being. The masses of the profane are asked, and are made, to believe that the accumulated testimony of History—which shows even the Atheists of old, such men as Epicurus and Democritus, as believers in *Gods*—is false; and that Philosophers like Socrates and Plato, asserting such existences, were mistaken enthusiasts and fools. If we hold our opinions merely on historical grounds, on the authority of legions of the most eminent Sages, Neo-Platonists, and Mystics in all ages, from Pythagoras down to the eminent Scientists and Professors of the present century, who, if they reject " *Gods*," believe in " *Spirits*," are we to consider such authorities to be as weak-minded and foolish as any Roman Catholic peasant, who believes in and prays to his once human Saint, or the Archangel St. Michael? But is there no difference between the belief of the peasant and that of the Western heirs of the Rosicrucians and Alchemists of the Middle Ages? Is it the Van Helmonts, the Khunraths, the Paracelsuses and Agrippas, from Roger Bacon down to St. Germain, who were all blind enthusiasts, hysteriacs or cheats, or is it the handful of modern Sceptics—the " leaders of thought "—who are struck with the cecity of negation? The latter is the case, we opine. It would indeed be a *miracle*, quite an abnormal fact in the realm of probabilities and logic, were that handful of negators to be the sole custodians of *truth*, while the million-strong hosts of believers in *Gods*, *Angels*, and *Spirits*—in Europe and America alone—namely, Greek and Latin Christians, Theosophists, Spiritualists, Mystics, etc., should be no better than deluded fanatics and hallucinated mediums, and often no higher than the victims of deceivers and impostors! However varying in their external presentations and dogmas, beliefs in the Hosts of invisible Intelligences of various grades have all the same foundation. Truth and error are mixed in all. The exact extent, depth, breadth, and length of the mysteries of Nature are to be found only in Eastern Esoteric Science. So vast and so profound are these that scarcely even a few, a very few of the highest

Initiates—those whose very existence is known but to a small number of Adepts—are capable of assimilating the knowledge. Yet it is all there, and one by one facts and processes in Nature's workshops are permitted to find their way into exact Science, while mysterious help is given to rare individuals in unravelling its arcana. It is at the close of great Cycles, in connection with racial development, that such events generally take place. We are at the very close of the cycle of 5,000 years of the present Âryan Kali Yuga ; and between this time and 1897 there will be a large rent made in the Veil of Nature, and materialistic Science will receive a death-blow.

Without throwing any discredit upon time-honoured beliefs, in any direction, we are forced to draw a marked line between blind faith, evolved by theologies, and knowledge due to the independent researches of long generations of Adepts, between, in short, faith and Philosophy. There have been, in all ages, undeniably learned and good men who, having been reared in sectarian beliefs, died in their crystallized convictions. For Protestants, the garden of Eden is the primeval point of departure in the drama of Humanity, and the solemn tragedy on the summit of Calvary is the prelude to the hoped-for Millennium. For Roman Catholics, Satan is at the foundation of Kosmos, Christ in its centre, and Antichrist at its apex. For both, the Hierarchy of Being begins and ends within the narrow frames of their respective theologies. one self-created *personal* God, and an empyrean ringing with the Hallelujas of *created* Angels, the rest, *false* Gods, Satan and fiends.

Theo-Philosophy proceeds on broader lines. From the very beginning of æons—in time and space in our Round and Globe—the mysteries of Nature (at any rate, those which it is lawful for our Races to know) were recorded by the pupils of those same, now invisible, "Heavenly Men," in geometrical figures and symbols. The keys thereto passed from one generation of "Wise Men" to another. Some of the symbols thus passed from the East to the West, brought from the Orient by Pythagoras, who was not the inventor of his famous "Triangle." The latter figure, along with the square and circle, are more eloquent and scientific descriptions of the order of the evolution of the Universe, spiritual and psychic, as well as physical, than volumes of descriptive Cosmogonies and revealed "*Geneses*." The *ten Points* inscribed within that "Pythagorean *Triangle*" are worth all the theogonies and angelologies ever emanated from the theological brain. For he who interprets these seventeen points (the seven Mathematical Points hidden)—on their very face, and in the order given—will find in them the uninterrupted series of the genealogies from the first *Heavenly* to *Terrestrial* Man. And, as they give the order of Beings, so they reveal the order in which were evolved

the Kosmos, our Earth, and the primordial Elements by which the latter was generated. Begotten in the invisible *Depths*, and in the Womb of the same "Mother" as its fellow-globes—he who masters the mysteries of our own Earth will have mastered those of all others.

Whatever ignorance, pride or fanaticism may suggest to the contrary, Esoteric Cosmology can be shown to be inseparably connected with both Philosophy and modern Science. The Gods and Monads of the Ancients—from Pythagoras down to Leibnitz—and the Atoms of the present materialistic schools (as borrowed by them from the theories of the old Greek Atomists) are only a compound unit, or a graduated unity like the human frame, which begins with body and ends with Spirit. In the Occult Sciences they can be studied separately, but they can never be mastered unless they are viewed in their mutual correlations during their life-cycle, and as a Universal Unity during Pralaya.

La Pluche shows sincerity, but gives a poor idea of his philosophical capacities, when declaring his personal views on the Monad or the Mathematical Point. He says .

A point is enough to put all the schools in the world in a combustion. But what need has man to know that point, since the creation of such a small being is beyond his power? *A fortiori*, philosophy acts against probability when, from that point which absorbs and disconcerts all her meditations, she presumes to pass on to the generation of the world.

Philosophy, however, could never have formed its conception of a logical, universal, and absolute Deity, if it had had no Mathematical Point within the Circle upon which to base its speculations. It is only the manifested Point, lost to our senses after its pregenetic appearance in the infinitude and incognizability of the Circle, that makes a reconciliation between Philosophy and Theology possible—on condition that the latter should abandon its crude materialistic dogmas. And it is because Christian theology has so unwisely rejected the Pythagorean Monad and geometrical figures, that it has evolved its self-created human and personal God, the monstrous Head whence flow in two streams the dogmas of Salvation and Damnation. This is so true, that even those clergymen who are Masons, and who would be Philosophers, have, in their arbitrary interpretations, fathered upon the Ancient Sages the queer idea that :

The Monad represented [with them] the throne of the Omnipotent Deity, placed in the centre of the empyrean to indicate T G A O T U [read "the Great Architect of the Universe"]<sup>1</sup>

A curious explanation this, more Masonic than strictly Pythagorean.

<sup>1</sup> *Pythagorean Triangle*, by the Rev G. Oliver, p. 36

Nor did the "Hierogram within a Circle, or equilateral Triangle," ever mean "the exemplification of the unity of the divine Essence"; for this was exemplified by the plane of the boundless Circle. What it really meant was the triune coequal Nature of the first differentiated Substance, or the *constantiality* of the (manifested) Spirit, Matter and the Universe—their "Son"—which proceeds from the Point, the real Esoteric Logos, or Pythagorean Monad. For the Greek *Monas* signifies "Unity" in its primary sense. Those unable to seize the difference between the Monad—the Universal Unit—and the *Monads* or the manifested Unity, as also between the ever-hidden and the revealed Logos, or the *Word*, ought never to meddle with Philosophy, let alone with the Esoteric Sciences. It is needless to remind the educated reader of Kant's Thesis to demonstrate his second Antinomy.<sup>1</sup> Those who have read and understood it will see clearly the line we draw between the *absolutely ideal* Universe and the invisible though manifested Kosmos. Our Gods and Monads are not the Elements of extension itself, but only those of the invisible Reality which is the basis of the manifested Kosmos. Neither Esoteric Philosophy, nor Kant, to say nothing of Leibnitz, would ever admit that extension can be composed of simple or unextended parts. But theologian-philosophers will not grasp this. The Circle and the Point—the latter retiring into and merging with the former, after having emanated the first three Points and connected them with lines, thus forming the first *noumenal* basis of the Second Triangle in the Manifested World—have ever been an insuperable obstacle to theological flights into dogmatic empyreans. On the authority of this Archaic Symbol, a male, personal God, the Creator and Father of all, becomes a third-rate emanation, the Sephira standing fourth in descent, and on the left hand of Ain Soph, in the Kabalistic Tree of Life. Hence, the Monad is degraded into a Vehicle—a "Throne"!

The Monad—the emanation and reflection only of the Point, or Logos, in the phenomenal World—becomes, as the apex of the manifested equilateral Triangle, the "Father." The left side or line is the *Duad*, the "Mother," regarded as the evil, counteracting principle,<sup>2</sup> the right side represents the "Son," "his Mother's Husband" in every Cosmogony, as being one with the apex; the base line is the universal plane of productive Nature, unifying on the phenomenal plane Father-Mother-Son, as these were unified in the apex,

<sup>1</sup> See Kant's *Critique de la Raison Pure*, Barni's trans., II, 54. [See also J. M. D. Meiklejohn's translation, p. 271. "Every composite substance in the world consists of simple parts, and there exists nothing that is not either itself simple or composed of simple parts."]

<sup>2</sup> Plutarch, *De Placitis Philosophorum*

in the supersensuous World.<sup>1</sup> By mystic transmutation they became the Quaternary—the Triangle became the TETRAKTYS

This transcendental application of geometry to cosmic and divine theogony—the Alpha and the Omega of mystical conception—was dwarfed after Pythagoras by Aristotle. By omitting the Point and the Circle, and taking no account of the apex, he reduced the metaphysical value of the idea, and thus limited the doctrine of magnitude to a simple Triad—the *line*, the *surface*, and the *body*. His modern heirs, who play at Idealism, have interpreted these three geometrical figures as Space, Force, and Matter—“the potencies of an interacting Unity.” Materialistic Science, perceiving but the base line of the *manifested Triangle*—the plane of Matter—translates it practically as (Father)-MATTER, (Mother)-MATTER, and (Son)-MATTER, and theoretically as Matter, Force, and Correlation.

But to the average Physicist, as remarked by a Kabalist :

Space, and force, and matter, are what signs in algebra are to the mathematician, merely conventional symbols, [or] Force as force and matter as matter are as absolutely unknowable as is the assumed empty space in which they are held to interact.<sup>2</sup>

Symbols represent abstractions, and on these

The physicist bases reasoned hypotheses of the origin of things . . . he sees three needs in what he terms creation A place wherein to create A medium by which to create A material from which to create And in giving a logical expression to this hypothesis through the terms space, force, matter, he believes he has proved the existence of that which each of these represents as he conceives it to be.<sup>3</sup>

The Physicist who regards Space merely as a representation of our mind, or extension unrelated to things in it, which Locke defined as capable of neither resistance nor motion, the paradoxical Materialist, who would have a *void* there, where he can see no Matter, would reject with the utmost contempt the proposition that Space is

A substantial though [apparently an absolutely] unknowable living Entity.<sup>4</sup>

Such is, nevertheless, the Kabalistic teaching, and it is that of Archaic Philosophy. Space is the *real* World, while our world is an artificial one. It is the One Unity throughout its infinitude : in its bottomless depths as on its illusive surface, a surface studded with countless phenomenal Universes,

<sup>1</sup> In the Greek and Latin Churches—which regard marriage as one of the sacraments—the officiating priest during the marriage ceremony represents the apex of the *triangle*, the bride, its left feminine side, and the bridegroom the right side, while the base line is symbolized by the row of witnesses, the bridesmaids and best men. But behind the priest there is the Holy of Holies, with its mysterious containments and symbolic meaning, inside of which no one but the consecrated priests should enter. In the early days of Christianity the marriage ceremony was a mystery and a true symbol. Now, however, even the Churches have lost the true meaning of this symbolism.

<sup>2</sup> *New Aspects of Life and Religion*, by Henry Pratt, M. D., p. 7 (1886)

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 7, 8.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9.

Systems and mirage-like Worlds. Nevertheless, to the Eastern Occultist, who is an objective Idealist at bottom, in the *real* World, which is a Unity of Forces, there is "a connection of all Matter in the Plenum," as Leibnitz would say. This is symbolized in the Pythagorean Triangle.

It consists of Ten Points inscribed pyramid-like (from one to four) within its three sides, and it symbolizes the Universe in the famous Pythagorean Decad. The upper single point is a Monad, and represents a Unit-Point, which is the Unity whence all proceeds. All is of the same essence with it. While the ten points within the equilateral Triangle represent the phenomenal world, the three sides enclosing the pyramid of points are the barriers of *noumenal* Matter, or Substance, that separate it from the world of Thought.

Pythagoras considered a *point* to correspond in proportion to unity, a *line* to 2; a *superficies* to 3, a *solid* to 4, and he defined a point as a monad having position, and the beginning of all things, a line was thought to correspond with duality, because it was produced by the first motion from indivisible nature, and formed the junction of two points. A superficies was compared to the number three because it is the first of all causes that are found in figures, for a circle, which is the principal of all round figures, comprises a triad, in centre—space—circumference. But a triangle, which is the first of all rectilineal figures, is included in a ternary, and receives its form according to that number, and was considered by the Pythagoreans to be the author of all sublunary things. The four points at the base of the Pythagorean triangle correspond with a solid or cube, which combines the principles of length, breadth, and thickness, for no solid can have less than four extreme boundary points<sup>1</sup>

It is argued that "the human mind cannot conceive an indivisible unit short of the annihilation of the idea with its subject." This is an error, as the Pythagoreans have proved, and a number of Seers before them, although there is a special training needed for the conception, and although the profane mind can hardly grasp it. But there are such things as "*Meta-mathematics*" and "*Meta-geometry*." Even Mathematics pure and simple proceed from the universal to the particular, from the mathematical indivisible point to solid figures. The teaching originated in India, and was taught in Europe by Pythagoras, who, throwing a veil over the Circle and the Point—which no living man can define except as incomprehensible abstractions—laid the origin of the differentiated cosmic Matter in the base of the Triangle. Thus the latter became the earliest of geometrical figures. The author of *New Aspects of Life*, dealing with the Kabalistic Mysteries, objects to the objectivization, so to speak, of the Pythagorean conception and the use of the equilateral triangle, and calls it a "misnomer."<sup>2</sup> His argument that a solid equilateral body—

One whose base, as well as each of its sides form equal triangles—must have four co-equal sides or surfaces, while a triangular plane will as necessarily possess five,<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Pythagorean Triangle*, by the Rev G Oliver, pp 18, 19.

<sup>2</sup> P. 387

<sup>3</sup> P. 387

—demonstrates on the contrary the grandeur of the conception in all its Esoteric application to the idea of the *pregenesis*, and the genesis of Kosmos. Granted, that an ideal Triangle, depicted by mathematical, imaginary lines,

Can have no sides at all, being simply a phantom of the mind, to which, if sides be imputed, these must be the sides of the object it constructively represents<sup>1</sup>

But in such case most of the scientific hypotheses are no better than “phantoms of the mind”; they are unverifiable, except on inference, and have been adopted merely to answer scientific necessities. Furthermore, the ideal Triangle—“as the abstract idea of a triangular body, and, therefore, as the type of an abstract idea”—accomplished and carried out to perfection the double symbolism intended. As an emblem applicable to the objective ideal, the simple triangle became a solid. When repeated in stone, facing the four cardinal points, it assumed the shape of the Pyramid—the symbol of the phenomenal merging into the noumenal Universe of thought, at the apex of the four triangles; and, as an “imaginary figure constructed of three mathematical lines,” it symbolized the subjective spheres—these lines “enclosing a mathematical space—which is equal to nothing enclosing nothing.” And this because, to the senses and the untrained consciousness of the Profane and the Scientist, everything beyond the line of differentiated Matter—i.e., outside of, and beyond the realm of even the most Spiritual *Substance*—has to remain for ever *equal to nothing*. It is the Ain Soph—the No THING.

Yet these “phantoms of the mind” are in truth no greater abstractions than the abstract ideas in general as to evolution and physical development—e.g., Gravity, Matter, Force, etc.—on which the exact Sciences are based. Our most eminent Chemists and Physicists are earnestly pursuing the not hopeless attempt of finally tracing to its hiding-place the Protyle, or the basic line of the Pythagorean Triangle. The latter is, as we have said, the grandest conception imaginable, for it symbolizes both the ideal and the visible universes.<sup>2</sup> For if

*the possible unit is only a possibility as an actuality of nature as an individual of any kind [and as] every individual natural object is capable of division, and by division loses its unity, or ceases to be a unit,*<sup>3</sup>

this is true only of the realm of exact Science in a world as deceptive as it is illusive. In the realm of Esoteric Science the Unit divided *ad infinitum*, instead of losing its unity, approaches with every division the planes of the

<sup>1</sup> P. 387

<sup>2</sup> In the World of Form, symbolism, finding expression in the Pyramids, has in them both triangle and square, four co-equal triangles or surfaces, four basic points, and the fifth—the apex

<sup>3</sup> Pp 385-6

only eternal REALITY. The eye of the SEER can follow it and behold it in all its pregenetic glory. This same idea of the reality of the subjective, and the unreality of the objective Universe, is found at the bottom of the Pythagorean and Platonic Teachings—limited to the *Elect* alone ; for Porphyry, speaking of the Monad and the Duad, says that the former only was considered substantial and real, “ that most simple Being, the cause of all unity and the measure of all things.”

But the Duad, although the origin of Evil, or Matter—hence *unreal* in Philosophy—is still Substance during Manvantara, and is often called the *Third* Monad, in Occultism, and the connecting line as between two Points, or Numbers, which proceeded from THAT, “ which was before all Numbers,” as expressed by Rabbi Barahiel. And from this Duad proceeded all the *Scintillas* of the three Upper and the four Lower Worlds or Planes—which are in constant interaction and correspondence. This is a teaching which the Kabbalah has in common with Eastern Occultism. For in the Occult Philosophy there is the “ ONE Cause ” and the “ *Primal Cause*,” the latter thus becoming, paradoxically, the Second, as is clearly expressed by the author of the *Qabbalah*, from the *Philosophical Writings of Ibn Gebirol*, who says .

In the treatment of the Primal Cause, two things must be considered, the Primal Cause *per se*, and the relation and connection of the Primal Cause, with the visible and unseen universe.<sup>1</sup>

Thus he shows the early Hebrews, as the later Arabians, following in the steps of the Oriental Philosophy, such as the Chaldean, Persian, Hindu, etc. Their Primal Cause was designated at first,

By the triadic שרִי Shaddai, the [triune] Almighty, subsequently by the Tetragrammaton, יְהוָה, YHVH, symbol of the Past, Present and Future,<sup>2</sup>

and, let us add, of the eternal IS, or the I AM. Moreover, in the Kabbalah the name YHVH (or Jehovah) expresses a He and a She, male and female, two in one, or Chokmah and Binah, and his, or rather their *Shekinah* or synthesizing Spirit (or Grace) which again makes of the Duad a Triad. This is demonstrated in the Jewish Liturgy for Pentecost, and the prayer .

“ In the Name of Unity, of the Holy and Blessed Hû [He], and His She'keenah, the Hidden and Concealed Hû, blessed be YHVH [the Quaternary] for ever ” Hû is said to be masculine and YaH feminine, together they make the יְהוָה אֶחָד e , one YHVH One, but of a male-female nature The She'keenah is always considered in the Qabbalah as feminine.<sup>3</sup>

And so it is considered in the exoteric *Purânas*, for *Shekinah* is no more than *Shakti*—the female double of any God—in such case. And so it was with the early Christians, whose Holy Spirit was feminine, as Sophia was with

<sup>1</sup> Op cit By Isaac Myer, p 174

<sup>2</sup> P. 175,

<sup>3</sup> P. 175,



the Gnostics. But in the transcendental Chaldean Kabbalah, or *Book of Numbers*, Shekinah is sexless, and the purest abstraction, a state, like Nirvâna, neither subject nor object, nor anything except an absolute PRESENCE.

Thus it is only in the anthropomorphized systems—such as the Kabbalah has now for the most part become—that Shekinah-Shakti is feminine. As such she becomes the *Duad* of Pythagoras, the two straight lines which can form no geometrical figure and are the symbol of Matter. Out of this *Duad*, when united in the basic line of the Triangle on the lower plane (the upper Triangle of the Sephirothal Tree), emerge the Elohim, or Deity in *Cosmic Nature*, with the true Kabbalists the lowest designation, translated in the *Bible* “God.”<sup>1</sup> Out of these (the Elohim) issue the *Scintillas*.

The *Scintillas* are the “Souls,” and these Souls appear in the threefold form of Monads (Units), Atoms and Gods—according to our Teaching. As says the *Esoteric Catechism* :

*Every Atom becomes a visible complex unit [a molecule], and once attracted into the sphere of terrestrial activity, the Monadic Essence, passing through the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms, becomes man.*

Again :

*God, Monad, and Atom are the correspondences of Spirit, Mind, and Body [Âtmâ, Manas, and Sthûla Sharîra] in man.*

In their septenary aggregation they are the “Heavenly Man,” in the Kabbalistic sense ; thus, terrestrial man is the provisional reflection of the Heavenly. Once again .

*The Monads [Jivas] are the Souls of the Atoms ; both are the fabric in which the Chohans [Dhyânîs, Gods] clothe themselves when a form is needed.*

This relates to cosmic and sub-planetary Monads, not to the super-cosmic *Monas*, the Pythagorean Monad, as it is called, in its synthetic character, by the Pantheistical Peripatetics. The Monads of the present dissertation are treated, from the standpoint of their individuality, as *Atomic Souls*, before these Atoms descend into pure terrestrial form. For this descent into concrete Matter marks the medial point of their own individual pilgrimage. Here, losing in the mineral kingdom their individuality, they begin to ascend through the seven states of terrestrial evolution to that point

<sup>1</sup> “The lowest designation, or the Deity in Nature, the more general term Elohim, is translated God” (p. 175) Such recent works as the *Qabbalah* of Mr. Isaac Myer, and of Mr. S. L. MacGregor Mathers, fully justify our attitude towards the Jehovistic Deity. It is not the transcendental, philosophical, and highly metaphysical abstraction of the original Kabbalistic thought—Ain-Soph-Shekinah-Adam-Kadmon, and all that follows—that we oppose, but the crystallization of all these into the highly unphilosophical, repulsive, and anthropomorphic Jehovah, the androgynous and finite deity, for which eternity, omnipotence, and omniscience are claimed. We do not war against the IDEAL Reality, but the hideous theological *Shadow*.

where a correspondence is firmly established between the human and *Deva* (divine) consciousness. At present, however, we are not concerned with their terrestrial metamorphoses and tribulations, but with their life and behaviour in Space, on planes wherein the eye of the most intuitional Chemist and Physicist cannot reach them—unless, indeed, he develops in himself highly clairvoyant faculties.

It is well known that Leibnitz came very near the truth several times, but he defined Monadic Evolution incorrectly, a thing not to be wondered at, since he was not an Initiate, nor even a Mystic, but only a very intuitional Philosopher. Yet no Psycho-physicist ever came nearer than has he to the Esoteric general outline of evolution. This evolution—viewed from its several standpoints, *i.e.*, as the *Universal* and the *individualized* Monad, and the chief aspects of the Evolving Energy after differentiation, the purely Spiritual, the Intellectual, the Psychic and the Physical—may be thus formulated as an invariable law: a descent of Spirit into Matter, equivalent to an ascent in physical evolution, a re-ascent from the depths of materiality towards its *status quo ante*, with a corresponding dissipation of concrete form and substance up to the LAYA-state, or what Science calls the “zero-point,” and beyond.

These states—once the spirit of Esoteric Philosophy is grasped—become absolutely necessary from simple logical and analogical considerations. Physical Science having now ascertained, through its department of Chemistry, the invariable law of this evolution of Atoms—from their “*protylean*” state down to that of a physical and then a chemical particle, or molecule—cannot well reject these states as a general law. And once it is forced by its enemies—Metaphysics and Psychology<sup>1</sup>—out of its alleged impregnable strongholds, it will find it more difficult than it now appears to refuse room in the Spaces of SPACE to Planetary Spirits (Gods), Elementals, and even the Elementary Spooks or Ghosts, and others. Already Figuier and Paul D’Assier, two Positivists and Materialists, have succumbed before this logical necessity. Other and still greater Scientists will follow in that intellectual “Fall.” They will be driven out of their position not by spiritual, theosophical, or any other physical or even mental phenomena, but simply by the enormous gaps and chasms that open daily and will still be opening before them, as one discovery follows the other, until they are finally knocked off their feet by the ninth wave of simple common sense.

<sup>1</sup> Let not the word “Psychology” cause the reader, by association of ideas, to carry his thought to modern “Psychologists,” so-called, whose *Idealism* is another name for uncompromising Materialism, and whose pretended Monism is no better than a mask to conceal the void of final annihilation—even of consciousness. Here *Spiritual* Psychology is meant.

We may take as an example, Prof. W. Crookes' latest discovery of what he has named Protyle. In the *Notes on the Bhagavad Gîtâ*, by one of the best metaphysicians and Vedântic scholars in India, the lecturer, referring cautiously to "things Occult" in that great Indian Esoteric work, makes a remark as suggestive as it is strictly correct. He says :

Into the details of the evolution of the solar system itself, it is not necessary for me to enter. You may gather some idea as to the way in which the various elements start into existence from these three principles into which Mûlaprakriti [the Pythagorean Triangle] is differentiated, by examining the lecture delivered by Professor Crookes a short time ago upon the so-called elements of modern chemistry. This lecture will give you some idea of the way in which these so-called elements spring from Vishvânara,<sup>1</sup> the most objective of these three principles, which seems to stand in the place of the protyle mentioned in that lecture. Except in a few particulars, this lecture seems to give the outlines of the theory of physical evolution on the plane of Vishvânara, and is, so far as I know, the nearest approach made by modern investigators to the real occult theory on the subject.<sup>2</sup>

These words will be re-echoed and approved by every Eastern Occultist. Much from the lectures by Prof. Crookes has already been quoted in Section 11. A second lecture has been delivered by him, as remarkable as the first, on the "Genesis of the Elements,"<sup>3</sup> and also a third one. Here we have almost a corroboration of the teachings of Esoteric Philosophy concerning the mode of primeval evolution. It is, indeed, as *near an approach*, made by a great scholar and specialist in Chemistry,<sup>4</sup> to the SECRET DOCTRINE, as could be made apart from the application of the Monads and Atoms to the dogmas of pure transcendental Metaphysics, and their connection and correlation with "Gods and intelligent conscious Monads." But Chemistry is now on its ascending plane, thanks to one of its highest European representatives. It is impossible for it to go back to that day when Materialism regarded its sub-elements as absolutely simple and homogeneous bodies, which it had raised, in its blindness, to the rank of Elements. The mask has been snatched off by too clever a hand for there to be any fear of a new disguise. And after years of pseudology, of bastard molecules parading under the name of

<sup>1</sup> "Vishvânara is not merely the manifested objective world, but the one physical basis [the horizontal line of the triangle] from which the whole objective world starts into existence." And this is the Cosmic Duad, the androgynous Substance. Only beyond this is the true Protyle.

<sup>2</sup> T. Subba Row. See *The Theosophist*, Feb. 1887, p. 308.

<sup>3</sup> By Prof. W. Crookes, F.R.S., V.P.C.S., delivered at the Royal Institution, London, February 18th, 1887.

<sup>4</sup> How true it is will be fully demonstrated only on that day when Prof. Crookes' discovery of radiant matter will have resulted in a further elucidation with regard to the true source of light, and will have revolutionized all the present speculations. Further familiarity with the northern streamers of the *aurora borealis* may help the recognition of this truth.

Elements, behind and beyond which there could be nought but void, a great professor of Chemistry asks once more :

What are these elements, whence do they come, what is their signification ? These elements perplex us in our researches, baffle us in our speculations, and haunt us in our very dreams. They stretch like an unknown sea before us—mocking, mystifying, and murmuring strange revelations and possibilities<sup>1</sup>

Those who are heirs to primeval revelations have taught these “ possibilities ” in every century, but have never found a fair hearing. The truths inspired into Kepler, Leibnitz, Gassendi, Swedenborg, etc., were ever alloyed with their own speculations in one or another pre-determined direction—hence were distorted. But now one of the great truths has dawned upon an eminent professor of exact modern Science, and he fearlessly proclaims as a fundamental axiom that Science has not made itself acquainted, so far, with real simple Elements. For Prof. Crookes tells his audience :

If I venture to say that our commonly received elements are not simple and primordial, that they have not arisen by chance or have not been created in a desultory and mechanical manner, but have been evolved from simpler matters—or perhaps, indeed, from one sole kind of matter—I do but give formal utterance to an idea which has been, so to speak, for some time “ in the air ” of science. Chemists, physicists, philosophers of the highest merit, declare explicitly their belief that the seventy (or thereabouts) elements of our text-books are not the pillars of Hercules which we must never hope to pass. Philosophers in the present as in the past—men who certainly have not worked in the laboratory—have reached the same view from another side. Thus Mr. Herbert Spencer records his conviction that “ the chemical atoms are produced from the true or physica<sup>1</sup> atoms by processes of evolution under conditions which chemistry has not yet been able to produce.” And the poet has forestalled the philosopher. Milton (*Paradise Lost*, Book V) makes the Archangel Raphael say to Adam instinct with the evolutionary idea, that the Almighty had created

“ One first matter all,  
Endued with various forms, various degrees  
Of substance, . . . ”

Nevertheless, the idea would have remained crystallized “ in the air of Science,” and would not have descended into the thick atmosphere of Materialism and profane mortals for years to come, perhaps, had not Prof. Crookes bravely and fearlessly reduced it to its simple constituents, and thus publicly forced it on scientific notice. Says Plutarch :

An idea is a Being incorporeal, which has no subsistence by itself, but gives figure and form unto shapeless matter, and becomes the cause of the manifestation<sup>2</sup>

The revolution produced in old Chemistry by Avogadro was the first page in the volume of “ New Chemistry.” Prof. Crookes has now turned the second page, and is boldly pointing to what may be the last. For Protyle once accepted and recognized—as invisible Ether was, both being logical and

<sup>1</sup> *Genesis of the Elements*, p 1

<sup>2</sup> *De Placit Philos*

*scientific necessities*—Chemistry will have virtually ceased to live : it will re-appear in its reincarnation as NEW ALCHEMY, or *Meta-chemistry*. The discoverer of radiant matter will have vindicated in time the Archaic Âryan works on Occultism, and even the *Vedas* and *Purânas*. For what are the manifested “Mother,” the “Father-Son-Husband” (Aditi and Daksha, a form of Brahmâ, as Creators), and the “Son”—the three “First-born”—*but simply Hydrogen, Oxygen, and that which in its terrestrial manifestation is called Nitrogen*. Even the exoteric descriptions of the “First-born” Triad give all the characteristics of these three gases. Priestley, the “discoverer” of Oxygen, or of that which was known in the highest antiquity<sup>1</sup>

Yet all the ancient, mediæval, and modern Poets and Philosophers have been anticipated even in the exoteric Hindu books as to the Elemental Vortices inaugurated by the Universal Mind—Descartes’ *Plenum* of Matter differentiated into particles, Leibnitz’s *ethereal fluid* and Kant’s *primitive fluid* dissolved into its elements; Kepler’s solar vortex and systemic vortices; in short, through Anaxagoras, down to Galileo, Torricelli, and Swedenborg, and after them to the latest speculations by European Mystics—all this is found in the Hindu Hymns, or Mantras, to the “Gods, Monads and Atoms,” in their Fulness, for they are inseparable. In Esoteric Teachings, the most transcendental conceptions of the Universe and its mysteries, as also the most seemingly materialistic speculations, are found reconciled, because these Sciences embrace the whole scope of evolution from Spirit to Matter. As declared by an American Theosophist :

The monads [of Leibnitz] may from one point of view be called *force*, from another *matter*. To occult science, *force* and *matter* are only two sides of the same substance<sup>1</sup>

Let the reader remember these “Monads” of Leibnitz, every one of which is a living mirror of the Universe, every Monad reflecting every other, and compare this view and definition with certain Sanskrit Shlokas translated by Sir William Jones, in which it is said that the creative source of the Divine Mind,

Hidden in a veil of thick darkness, formed mirrors of the atoms of the world, and cast reflection from its own face on every atom

When, therefore, Prof Crookes declares that :

If we can show how the so-called chemical elements might have been generated we shall be able to fill up a formidable gap in our knowledge of the universe, the answer is ready. The theoretical knowledge is contained in the Esoteric meaning of every Hindu cosmogony in the *Purânas*, the practical demonstration thereof—is in the hands of those who will not be recognized in this

<sup>1</sup> *The Path*, January, 1887, p. 297

century, save by the very few. The scientific possibilities of various discoveries, that must inexorably lead exact Science into the acceptance of Eastern Occult views, which contain all the requisite material for the filling of those "gaps," are, so far, at the mercy of modern Materialism. It is only by working in the direction taken by Prof. W. Crookes that there is any hope for the recognition of a few, hitherto Occult, truths.

Meanwhile, any one thirsting to have a glimpse at a practical diagram of the evolution of primordial Matter—which, separating and differentiating under the impulse of cyclic law, divides itself on a general view into a septenary gradation of SUBSTANCE—can do no better than examine the plates attached to Prof. Crookes' lecture, *Genesis of the Elements*, and ponder well over some passages of the text. In one place he says .

Our notions of a chemical element have expanded. Hitherto the molecule has been regarded as an aggregate of two or more atoms, and no account has been taken of the architectural design on which these atoms have been joined. We may consider that the structure of a chemical element is more complicated than has hitherto been supposed. Between the molecules we are accustomed to deal with in chemical reactions and ultimate atoms as first created, come smaller molecules or aggregates of physical atoms, these sub-molecules differ one from the other, according to the position they occupy in the yttrium edifice.

Perhaps this hypothesis can be simplified if we imagine yttrium to be represented by a five-shilling piece. By fractionation I have divided it into five separate shillings, and find that these shillings are not counterparts, but like the carbon atoms in the benzol ring, have the impress of their position, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, stamped on them. . . If I throw my shillings into the melting-pot or dissolve them chemically, the mint stamp disappears and they all turn out to be silver.<sup>1</sup>

This will be the case with all the Atoms and molecules when they have separated from their compound forms and bodies—when Pralaya sets in. Reverse the case, and imagine the dawn of a new Manvantara. The pure "silver" of the absorbed material will once more separate into SUBSTANCE, which will generate "Divine Essences" whose "Principles"<sup>2</sup> are the Primary Elements, the Sub-elements, the Physical Energies, and subjective and objective Matter, or, as these are epitomized—GODS, MONADS, and ATOMS. If leaving for one moment the metaphysical or transcendental side of the question—dropping out of the present consideration the supersensuous and intelligent Beings and Entities believed in by the Kabalists and Christians—we turn to the theory of atomic evolution, the Occult Teachings are still found corroborated by exact Science and its confessions, so far, at least, as regards the supposed "simple" Elements, now suddenly degraded into poor

<sup>1</sup> P. 11

<sup>2</sup> Corresponding on the cosmic scale with the Spirit, Soul-Mind, Life, and the three *Vehicles*—the Astral, the *Mâyâvic* and the Physical Bodies (of mankind), whatever division is made

and distant relatives, not even second cousins to the latter. For we are told by Prof. Crookes that :

Hitherto, it has been considered that if the atomic weight of a metal, determined by different observers, setting out from different compounds, was always found to be constant then such metal must rightly take rank among the simple or elementary bodies. We learn . . . that this is no longer the case. Again, we have here wheels within wheels. Gadolinium is not an element but a compound. . . . We have shown that yttrium is a complex of five or more new constituents. And who shall venture to gainsay that each of these constituents, if attacked in some different manner, and if the result were submitted to a test more delicate and searching than the radiant-matter test, might not be still further divisible? Where, then, is the actual ultimate element? As we advance it recedes like the tantalizing mirage lakes and groves seen by the tired and thirsty traveller in the desert. Are we in our quest for truth to be thus deluded and balked? The very idea of an element, as something absolutely primary and ultimate, seems to be growing less and less distinct<sup>1</sup>

In *Isis Unveiled*, we said :

This mystery of first creation, which was ever the despair of Science, is unfathomable unless we accept the doctrine of Hermes. Could he [Darwin] remove his quest from the visible universe into the invisible, he might find himself on the right path. But then, he would be following in the footsteps of the Hermetists.<sup>2</sup>

Our prophecy begins to assert itself.

But between Hermes and Huxley there is a middle course and point. Let the men of Science only throw a bridge half-way, and think seriously over the theories of Leibnitz. We have shown our theories with regard to the evolution of Atoms—their last formation into compound chemical molecules being produced within our terrestrial workshops in the Earth's atmosphere and not elsewhere—as strangely agreeing with the evolution of Atoms shown on Prof. Crookes' plates. Several times already it has been stated in this volume that Mâtânda, the Sun, had evolved and aggregated, together with his seven smaller Brothers, from his Mother Aditi's bosom, that bosom being *prima MATER-ia*—the lecturer's primordial Protyle. Esoteric Doctrines teach the existence of

An antecedent form of energy having periodic cycles of ebb and swell, rest and activity.<sup>3</sup>

And behold a great scholar in Science now asking the world to accept this as one of his postulates! We have shown the "Mother," fiery and hot, becoming gradually cool and radiant, and this same Scientist claims as his second postulate—a *scientific necessity*, it would seem—

An internal action, akin to cooling, operating slowly in the protyle

Occult Science teaches that the "Mother" lies stretched in Infinity, during pralaya, as the great Deep, the "dry Waters of Space," according to

<sup>1</sup> Ibid , p 16

<sup>2</sup> Vol, I, p 429

<sup>3</sup> *Genesis of the Elements*, p. 21.

the quaint expression in the *Catechism*, and becomes wet only after the separation and the moving over its face of Nârâyana, the

*Spirit which is invisible Flame, which never burns, but sets on fire all that it touches, and gives it life and generation.*<sup>1</sup>

And now Science tells us that "the first-born element . . . most nearly allied to protyle" would be "hydrogen . . . which for some time would be the only existing form of matter" in the Universe. What says *Old Science*? It answers: Just so; but we would call Hydrogen (and Oxygen), which—in the pre-geological and even pregenetic ages—instils the fire of life into the "Mother" by incubation, the *Spirit*, the *noumenon*, of that which becomes in its grossest form Oxygen and Hydrogen and Nitrogen on Earth—Nitrogen being of no divine origin, but merely an earth-born cement for uniting other gases and fluids, and serving as a sponge to carry in itself the Breath of LIFE, pure air.<sup>2</sup> Before these gases and fluids become what they are in our atmosphere, they are interstellar Ether; still earlier and on a deeper plane—something else, and so on *in infinitum*. The eminent and learned gentleman must pardon an Occultist for quoting him at such length; but such is the penalty of a Fellow of the Royal Society who approaches so near the precincts of the Sacred Adytum of Occult Mysteries as virtually to overstep the forbidden boundaries.

But it is time to leave modern *Physical Science* and turn to the psychological and metaphysical side of the question. We would only remark that to the "two very reasonable postulates" required by the eminent lecturer, "to get a glimpse of some few of the secrets so darkly hidden" behind "the door of the Unknown," a third should be added<sup>3</sup>—lest no battering at it should avail; the postulate that Leibnitz stood on a firm groundwork of fact and truth in his speculations. The admirable and thoughtful synopsis of these speculations—as given by John Theodore Mertz in his "Leibnitz"—shows how nearly he has brushed the hidden secrets of Esoteric Theogony in his *Monadologie*. And yet this philosopher has hardly risen in his speculations above the first planes, the lower principles of the Cosmic Great Body. His theory soars to no loftier heights than those of the *manifested* life, self-consciousness and intelligence, leaving the regions of the earlier post-genetic mysteries untouched, as his ethereal fluid is post-planetary.

<sup>1</sup> "The Lord is a consuming fire" "In him was life, and the life was the light of men"

<sup>2</sup> Which if separated *alchemically* would yield the Spirit of Life, and its Elixir

<sup>3</sup> Foremost of all, the postulate that there is no such thing in Nature as *inorganic* substances or bodies—Stones, minerals, rocks, and even chemical "atoms" are simply organic units in profound lethargy—Their coma has an end and their inertia becomes activity



But this third postulate will hardly be accepted by the modern men of Science, and, like Descartes, they will prefer keeping to the properties of external things, which, like extension, are incapable of explaining the phenomenon of motion, rather than accept the latter as an independent Force. They will never become anti-Cartesian in this generation; nor will they admit that :

This property of inertia is not a purely geometrical property, that it points to the existence of something in external bodies which is not extension merely

This is Leibnitz's idea as analyzed by Mertz, who adds that he called this "something" Force, and maintained that external things were endowed with Force, and that in order to be the bearers of this Force they must have a Substance, for they are not lifeless and inert masses, but the centres and bearers of Form—a purely Esoteric claim, since *force* was with Leibnitz an *active* principle—the division between Mind and Matter disappearing by this conclusion.

The mathematical and dynamical enquiries of Leibnitz would not have led to the same result in the mind of a purely scientific enquirer. But Leibnitz was not a scientific man in the modern sense of the word. Had he been so, he might have worked out the conception of energy, defined mathematically the ideas of force and mechanical work, and arrived at the conclusion that even for purely scientific purposes it is desirable to look upon force, not as a primary quantity, but as a quantity derived from some other value

But, luckily for truth :

Leibnitz was a philosopher, and as such he had certain primary principles, which biased him in favour of certain conclusions, and his discovery that external things were substances endowed with force was at once used for the purpose of applying these principles. One of these principles was the law of continuity, the conviction that all the world was connected, that there were no gaps and chasms which could not be bridged over. The contrast of extended thinking substances was unbearable to him. The definition of the extended substances had already become untenable. It was natural that a similar enquiry was made into the definition of mind, the thinking substance

The divisions made by Leibnitz, however incomplete and faulty from the standpoint of Occultism, show a spirit of metaphysical intuition to which no man of Science, not Descartes, not even Kant, has ever reached. With him there existed ever an infinite gradation of thought. Only a small portion of the contents of our thoughts, he said, rises into the clearness of apperception, "into the light of perfect consciousness." Many remain in a confused or obscure state, in the state of "perceptions"; but they are there. Descartes denied soul to the animal, Leibnitz, as do the Occultists, endowed "the whole creation with mental life, this being, according to him, capable of infinite gradations." And this, as Mertz justly observes :

At once widened the realm of mental life, destroying the contrast of *animate* and *inanimate matter*, it did yet more—it reacted on the conception of matter, of the

extended substance. For it became evident that external or material things presented the property of extension to our senses only, not to our thinking faculties. The mathematician, in order to calculate geometrical figures, had been obliged to divide them into an infinite number of infinitely small parts, and the physicist saw no limit to the divisibility of matter into atoms. The bulk through which external things seemed to fill space was a property which they acquired only through the coarseness of our senses. . . . Leibnitz followed these arguments to some extent, but he could not rest content in assuming that matter was composed of a finite number of very small parts. His mathematical mind forced him to carry out the argument *in infinitum*. And what became of the atoms then? They lost their extension and they retained only their property of resistance, they were the centres of force. They were reduced to mathematical points.

But if their extension in space was nothing, *so much fuller was their inner life*. Assuming that inner existence, such as that of the human mind, is a new dimension, not a geometrical but a metaphysical dimension, having reduced the geometrical extension of the atoms to nothing, Leibnitz endowed them with an infinite extension in the direction of their metaphysical dimension. After having lost sight of them in the world of space, the mind has, as it were, to dive into a metaphysical world to find and grasp the real essence of what appears in space merely as a mathematical point. As a cone stands on its point, or a perpendicular straight line cuts a horizontal plane only in one mathematical point, but may extend infinitely in height and depth, so the essences of *things real* have only a punctual existence in this physical world of space, but have an infinite depth of inner life in the metaphysical world of thought.<sup>1</sup>

This is the spirit, the very root of Occult doctrine and thought. The "Spirit-Matter" and "Matter-Spirit" extend infinitely *in depth*, and like the "essence of things" of Leibnitz, our essence of *things real* is at the *seventh depth*, while the *unreal* and gross matter of Science and the external world, is at the lowest extreme of our perceptive senses. The Occultist knows the worth or worthlessness of the latter.

The student must now be shown the fundamental distinction between the system of Leibnitz<sup>2</sup> and that of Occult Philosophy, on the question of the Monads, and this may be done with his *Monadologie* before us. It may be correctly stated that were Leibnitz's and Spinoza's systems reconciled, the essence and spirit of Esoteric Philosophy would be made to appear. From the shock of the two—as opposed to the Cartesian system—emerge the truths of the Archaic Doctrine. Both oppose the Metaphysics of Descartes. His idea of the contrast of two Substances—Extension and Thought—radically differing from each other and mutually irreducible, is too arbitrary and too unphilosophical for them. Thus Leibnitz made of the two Cartesian Substances two attributes of one universal Unity, in which he saw God. Spinoza recognized but one universal indivisible Substance, an absolute ALL, like Parabrahman. Leibnitz, on the contrary, perceived the existence of a plurality of Substances. There was but ONE for Spinoza; for Leibnitz an infinitude of Beings, *from*, and

<sup>1</sup> Ibid, p 144

<sup>2</sup> The orthography of the name—as spelt by himself—is Leibniz. He was of Slavonian descent though born in Germany, 1646. Full name Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz.

in, the One. Hence, though both admitted but *One Real Entity*, while Spinoza made it impersonal and indivisible, Leibnitz divided his *personal* Deity into a number of divine and semi-divine Beings. Spinoza was a *subjective*, Leibnitz an *objective* Pantheist, yet both were great Philosophers in their intuitive perceptions.

Now, if these two teachings were blended together and each corrected by the other—and foremost of all the One Reality weeded of its personality—there would remain as sum total a true spirit of Esoteric Philosophy in them, the impersonal, attributeless, absolute Divine Essence, which is no “being” but the root of all Being. Draw a deep line in your thought between that ever-incognizable Essence, and the as invisible, yet comprehensible Presence, *Mūlaprakriti* or *Shekinah*, *from beyond and through which* vibrates the Sound of the Verbum, and from which evolve the numberless Hierarchies of intelligent Egos, of conscious as of semi-conscious, *apperceptive* and *perceptive*<sup>1</sup> Beings, whose Essence is spiritual Force, whose Substance is the Elements, and whose Bodies (when needed) are the Atoms—and our Doctrine is there. For, says Leibnitz:

The primitive element of every material body being force, which has none of the characteristics of [objective] matter—it can be conceived but can never be the object of any imaginative representation

That which was for him the primordial and ultimate element in every body and object was thus not the material atoms, or molecules, necessarily more or less extended, as those of Epicurus and Gassendi, but, as Mertz shows, immaterial and metaphysical Atoms, “mathematical points,” or *real souls*—as explained by Henri Lachelier (Professeur Agrégé de Philosophie), his French biographer

That which exists outside of us in an absolute manner, are Souls whose essence is force<sup>2</sup>

Thus, *reality* in the manifested world is composed of a *unity of units*, so to say, immaterial—from our standpoint—and infinite. These Leibnitz calls *Monads*, Eastern Philosophy, *Jivas*, while Occultism, with the Kabalists and all the Christians, gives them a variety of names. With us, as with Leibnitz, they are “the expression of the universe,”<sup>3</sup> and every physical point is but the

<sup>1</sup> [In the 1888 edition this reads “conscious as of semi-conscious, *perceptive* and *apperceptive* Beings.” In *The Philosophical Writings of Leibnitz*, selected and translated by Mary Morris, in the section on Principles, p. 23, Leibnitz’s theory is given as follows “it is well to distinguish between *perception* which is the inner state of the monad representing external things, and *apperception*, which is *consciousness*, or the reflective knowledge of this inner state, and which is not given to all souls, nor at all times to the same soul”]

<sup>2</sup> *Monadologie*, Introduction

<sup>3</sup> “Leibnitz’s dynamism,” says Professor Lachelier, “would offer but little difficulty if, with him, the monad had remained a simple atom of *blind force*. But . . . One perfectly understands the perplexity of modern Materialism!”

phenomenal expression of the noumenal, metaphysical Point. His distinction between *perception* and *apperception* is the philosophical though dim expression of the Esoteric Teachings. His "reduced universes," of which "there are as many as there are Monads"—is the chaotic representation of our Septenary System with its divisions and sub-divisions.

As to the relation his Monads bear to our Dhyân Chohans, Cosmic Spirits, Devas, and Elementals, we may reproduce briefly the opinion of a learned and thoughtful Theosophist, Mr. C. H. A. Bjerregaard, on the subject. In an excellent paper, "On the Elementals, the Elementary Spirits, and the Relationship between Them and Human Beings," read by him before the Âryan Theosophical Society of New York, Mr. Bjerregaard thus distinctly formulates his opinion :

To Spinoza, substance is dead and inactive, but to Leibnitz's penetrating powers of mind everything is living activity and active energy. In holding this view, he comes infinitely nearer the Orient than any other thinker of his day, or after him. His discovery that an active energy forms the essence of substance is a principle that places him in direct relationship to the seers of the East<sup>1</sup>

And the lecturer proceeds to show that to Leibnitz Atoms and Elements are *Centres of Force*, or rather "spiritual beings whose very nature it is to act," for these

elementary particles are vital forces, not acting mechanically, but from an internal principle. They are incorporeal or spiritual units ["substantial," however, but not "immaterial" in our sense] inaccessible to all change from without [and] indestructible by any external force. Leibnitz' monads differ from atoms in the following particulars, which are very important for us to remember, otherwise we shall not be able to see the difference between Elementals and mere matter. Atoms are not distinguished from each other, they are qualitatively alike, but one monad differs from every other monad qualitatively, and every one is a peculiar world to itself. Not so with the atoms, they are absolutely alike quantitatively and qualitatively, and possess no individuality of their own<sup>2</sup>. Again, the atoms [molecules, rather] of materialistic philosophy can be considered as extended and divisible, while the monads are mere "metaphysical points" and indivisible. Finally, and this is a point where these monads of Leibnitz closely resemble the Elementals of mystic philosophy, these monads are representative beings. Every monad reflects every other. Every monad is a living mirror of the universe within its own sphere. And mark this, for upon it depends the power possessed by these monads, and upon it depends the work they can do for us ;

<sup>1</sup> *The Path*, I, January, 1887, p. 297.

<sup>2</sup> Leibnitz was an absolute Idealist in maintaining that "material atoms are contrary to reason" (*Système Nouveau*, Erdmann, p. 126, col. 2). For him matter was a simple representation of the Monad, whether human or atomic. Monads, he thought (as do we), are everywhere. Thus the human soul is a Monad, and every cell in the human body has its Monad, as has every cell in animal, vegetable, and even in the so-called inorganic bodies. His atoms are the molecules of modern Science, and his Monads those simple atoms that materialistic Science takes on faith, though it will never succeed in interviewing them—except in imagination. But Leibnitz is rather contradictory in his views about Monads. He speaks of his "Metaphysical Points" and "Formal Atoms," at one time as realities, occupying space, at another as pure spiritual ideas, then he again endows them with objectivity and aggregates and positions in their co-relations.

in mirroring the world, the monads are not mere passive reflective agents, but *spontaneously self-active*, they produce the images spontaneously, as the soul does a dream. In every monad, therefore, the adept may read everything, even the future. Every monad—or elemental—is a looking-glass that can speak.

It is at this point that Leibnitz's philosophy breaks down. There is no Provision made, nor any distinction established, between the "Elemental" Monad and that of a high Planetary Spirit, or even the Human Monad or Soul. He even goes so far sometimes as to doubt whether

God has ever made anything but monads or substances without extension.<sup>1</sup>

He draws a distinction between Monads and Atoms,<sup>2</sup> because, as he repeatedly states ;

Bodies with all their qualities are only phenomenal, like the rainbow. *Corpora omnia cum omnibus qualitatibus suis non sunt aliud quam phenomena bene fundata, ut Iris* <sup>1</sup>

But soon after he finds a provision for this in a substantial correspondence, a certain metaphysical bond—*vinculum substantiale*—between the Monads. Esoteric Philosophy, teaching an *objective Idealism*—though it regards the objective Universe and all in it as *Mâyâ*, temporary Illusion—draws a practical distinction between collective Illusion, *Mahâmâyâ*, from the purely metaphysical standpoint, and the objective relations in it between various conscious Egos so long as this illusion lasts. The Adept, therefore, may read the future in an Elemental Monad, but he has to draw together for this object a great number of them, as each Monad represents only a portion of the Kingdom it belongs to.

It is not in the object, but in the modification of the cognition of the object that the monads are limited. They all tend (confusedly) to the infinite, to the whole, but they are limited and distinguished by the degrees of distinctness in their perception,<sup>1</sup>

And as Leibnitz explains .

All the portions of the universe are distinctly represented in the monads, but some are reflected in one monad, some in another

A number of Monads could represent simultaneously the thoughts of the two million inhabitants of Paris.

But what say the Occult Sciences to this, and what do they add ?

<sup>1</sup> *Examen des Principes du P. Malebranche*

<sup>2</sup> The Atoms of Leibnitz have, in truth, nothing but the name in common with the atoms of the Greek Materialists, or even the *molecules* of modern Science. He calls them "formal Atoms," and compares them to the "substantial forms" of Aristotle. (See *Système Nouveau*, § 3)

<sup>3</sup> Letter to Father Desbosses, *Correspondence*, xviii

<sup>1</sup> *Monadologie*, § 60. Leibnitz, like Aristotle, calls the "created" or *emanated* Monads (the Elementals issued from Cosmic Spirits or Gods)—*Entelechies*, (*Εντελέχειαι*), and "incorporeal automata" (*Monadologie*, § 18)

They say that what is called collectively Monads by Leibnitz—roughly viewed, and leaving every subdivision out of calculation for the present—may be separated into three distinct Hosts,<sup>1</sup> which, counted from the highest planes, are, firstly, “ Gods,” or conscious, spiritual Egos; the intelligent Architects, who work after the plan in the *Divine Mind*. Then come the Elementals, or “ Monads,” who form collectively and unconsciously the grand Universal Mirrors of everything connected with their respective realms. Lastly, the “ Atoms,” or material molecules, which are informed in their turn by their “ perceptive ” Monads, just as every cell in a human body is so informed. There are shoals of such *informed* Atoms which, in their turn, inform the molecules, an infinitude of Monads, or Elementals proper, and countless spiritual Forces—*Monadless*, for they are pure incorporealities,<sup>2</sup> except under certain laws, when they assume a form—not necessarily human. Whence the substance that clothes them—the apparent organism they evolve around their centres? The *Formless* (Arûpa) Radiations, existing in the harmony of Universal Will, and being what we term the collective or the aggregate of Cosmic Will on the plane of the subjective Universe, unite together an infinitude of Monads—each the mirror of its own Universe—and thus individualize for the time being an independent Mind, omniscient and universal; and by the same process of magnetic aggregation they create for themselves objective, visible bodies, out of the interstellar Atoms. For Atoms and Monads, associated or dissociated, simple or complex, are, from the moment of the first differentiation, but the *principles*, corporeal, psychic and spiritual, of the “ Gods ”—themselves the Radiations of Primordial Nature. Thus, to the eye of the Seer, the higher Planetary Powers appear under two aspects: the subjective—as *influences*, and the objective—as mystic FORMS, which, under Karmic law, become a *Presence*, Spirit and Matter being One, as repeatedly stated. Spirit is Matter *on the seventh plane*, Matter is Spirit at the lowest point of its cyclic activity; and both are—MĀYĀ.

<sup>1</sup> These three ‘ rough divisions ’ correspond to Spirit, Mind, (or Soul), and Body, in the human constitution

<sup>2</sup> Mr. C H A Bjerregaard, in the lecture already mentioned, warns his audience not to regard the Sephiroth too much as *individualities*, but to avoid at the same time seeing in them *abstractions*. “ We shall never arrive at the truth,” he says, “ much less the power of associating with these celestials, until we return to the simplicity and fearlessness of the primitive ages, when men mixed freely with the gods, and the gods descended among men and guided them in truth and holiness.” (p. 296.) “ There are several designations for ‘ angels ’ in the Bible, which clearly show that beings like the elementals of the Kabbala and the monads of Leibnitz, must be understood by that term rather than that which is commonly understood. They are called ‘ morning stars,’ . . . ‘ flaming fires,’ ‘ the mighty ones,’ . . . and St Paul sees them in his cosmogonic vision as ‘ principalities and powers.’ Such names as these preclude the idea of personality, and we find ourselves compelled to think of them as impersonal existences . . . as an influence, a spiritual substance, or conscious force.” *The Path*, January 1887, pp. 331-2

Atoms are called Vibrations in Occultism ; also Sound—collectively. This does not interfere with Prof. Tyndall's scientific discovery. He traced, on the lower rung of the ladder of monadic being, the whole course of the *atmospheric vibrations*—and this constitutes the *objective* part of the process in Nature. He has traced and recorded the rapidity of their motion and transmission ; the force of their impact , their setting up vibrations in the tympanum and their transmission of these to the otoliths, etc , till the vibration of the auditory nerve commences—and a new phenomenon now takes place : the *subjective* side of the process or the *sensation of sound*. Does he perceive or see it ? No ; for his specialty is to discover the behaviour of Matter. But why should not a Psychic see it, a spiritual Seer, whose inner Eye is opened, one who can see through the veil of Matter ? The waves and undulations of Science are all produced by Atoms propelling their molecules into activity *from within*. Atoms fill the immensity of Space, and by their continuous vibration are that MOTION which keeps the wheels of Life perpetually going. It is that inner work that produces the natural phenomenon called the correlation of Forces. Only, at the origin of every such “ Force,” there stands the conscious guiding Noumenon thereof—Angel or God, Spirit or Demon, ruling powers, yet the same.

As described by Seers—those who can see the motion of the interstellar shoals, and follow them clairvoyantly in their evolution—they are dazzling, like specks of virgin snow in radiant sunlight. Their velocity is swifter than thought, quicker than any mortal physical eye can follow, and, as well as can be judged from the tremendous rapidity of their course, the motion is circular. Standing on an open plain, on a mountain summit especially, and gazing into the vast vault above and the spatial infinitudes around, the whole atmosphere seems ablaze with them, the air soaked through with these dazzling coruscations. At times, the intensity of their motion produces flashes like the Northern Lights in the Aurora Borealis. The sight is so marvellous, that, as the Seer gazes into this inner world, and feels the scintillating points shoot past him, he is filled with awe at the thought of other, still greater mysteries, that lie beyond, and within, this radiant ocean.

However imperfect and incomplete this explanation on “ Gods, Monads and Atoms,” it is hoped that some students and Theosophists, at least, will feel that there may indeed be a close relation between materialistic Science and Occultism, which is the complement and missing soul of the former.

## SECTION 15

### CYCLIC EVOLUTION AND KARMA

IT is the spiritual evolution of the *inner*, immortal Man that forms the fundamental tenet of the Occult Sciences. To realize even distantly such a process, the student has to believe (a) in the ONE Universal Life, independent of Matter (or what Science regards as Matter), and (b) in the individual Intelligences that animate the various manifestations of this Principle. Prof. Huxley does not believe in Vital Force; other Scientists do. Dr. J. H. Hutchinson Stirling's work *As regards Protoplasm* has made no small havoc of this dogmatic negation. Professor Beale's decision also is in favour of a Vital Principle; and Dr. B. W. Richardson's lectures on Nervous Ether have been sufficiently quoted. Thus, opinions are divided.

The ONE LIFE is closely related to the One Law which governs the World of Being—KARMA. Exoterically, this is simply and literally "action," or rather an "effect-producing cause." Esoterically, it is quite a different thing in its far-reaching moral effects. It is the unerring LAW OF RETRIBUTION. To say to those ignorant of the real significance, characteristics, and awful importance of this eternal immutable Law, that no theological definition of a Personal Deity can give an idea of this impersonal, yet ever present and active Principle, is to speak in vain. Nor can it be called Providence. For Providence, with the Theists—the Protestant Christians, at any rate—rejoices in a personal male gender, while with the Roman Catholics it is a female potency. "Divine Providence tempers His blessings to secure their better effects," Wogan tells us. Indeed "He" tempers them, which Karma—a sexless principle—does not.

Throughout the first two Parts,<sup>1</sup> it has been shown that, at the first flutter of renascent life, Svabhāvat, "*the Mutable Radiance of the Immutable Darkness unconscious in Eternity*," passes, at every new rebirth of Kosmos, from

<sup>1</sup> Vol. 1 contains Part 1, Vol. 2 contains Parts 2 and 3.



an inactive state into one of intense activity; that it differentiates, and then begins its work through that differentiation. This work is KARMA.

The Cycles are also subservient to the effects produced by this activity.

*The one Cosmic Atom becomes seven Atoms on the plane of Matter, and each is transformed into a centre of energy; that same Atom becomes seven Rays on the plane of Spirit; and the seven creative Forces of Nature, radiating from the Root-Essence . . . follow, one the right, the other the left path, separate till the end of the Kalpa, and yet in close embrace. What unites them? KARMA.*

The Atoms emanated from the Central Point emanate in their turn new centres of energy, which, under the potential breath of Fohat, begin their work from within without, and multiply other minor centres. These, in the course of evolution and involution, form in their turn the roots or developing causes of new effects, from worlds and "man-bearing" globes, down to the genera, species, and classes of all the seven kingdoms, of which we know only four. For as says the *Book of the Aphorisms of Tsong-kha-pa*:

The blessed workers have received the Thyan-kam, in the eternity

Thyan-kam is the power or knowledge of guiding the impulses of Cosmic Energy in the right direction.

The true Buddhist, recognizing no "personal God," nor any "Father" and "Creator of Heaven and Earth," still believes in an *Absolute Consciousness*, *Adi-Buddhi*, and the Buddhist Philosopher knows that there are Planetary Spirits, the Dhyân Chohans. But though he admits of "Spiritual Lives," yet, as they are temporary in eternity, even they, according to his Philosophy, are "the *Mâyâ* of the Day," the *Illusion* of a "Day of Brahmâ," a short Manvantara of 4,320,000,000 years. The Yin-Sin is not for the speculations of men, for the Lord Buddha has strongly prohibited all such enquiry. If the Dhyân Chohans and all the Invisible Beings—the Seven Centres and their direct Emanations, the *minor* centres of Energy—are the direct reflex of the ONE Light, yet men are far removed from these, since the whole of the *visible* Kosmos consists of "self-produced beings, the creatures of Karma." Thus regarding a personal God "as only a gigantic shadow thrown upon the void of space by the imagination of ignorant men,"<sup>1</sup> they teach that only "two things are [objectively] eternal, namely *Âkâsha* and *Nirvâna*"; and that these are one in reality, and but a *mâyâ* when divided.

Everything has come out of *Âkâsha* [or *Svabhâvat* on our earth] in obedience to a law of motion inherent in it, and after a certain existence passes away Nothing ever

<sup>1</sup> *Buddhist Catechism*, (Question 122), by H S Olcott, President of the Theosophical Society.

came out of nothing. Buddhists do not believe in miracles; hence they deny creation and cannot conceive of a creator<sup>1</sup>.

If a Vedântic Brâhman of the Advaita Sect, were asked whether he believed in the existence of God, he would probably answer, as Jacolliot was answered—"I am myself 'God'", while a Buddhist (a Sinhalese especially) would simply laugh, and say in reply, "There is no God; no Creation." Yet the root Philosophy of both Advaita and Buddhist scholars is *identical*, and both have the same respect for animal life, for both believe that every creature on Earth, however small and humble, "is an immortal portion of the immortal Matter"—Matter having with them quite another significance from that which it has with either Christian or Materialist—and that every creature is subject to Karma.

The answer of the Brâhman would have suggested itself to every ancient Philosopher, Kabbalist, and Gnostic of the early days. It contains the very spirit of the Delphic and Kabbalistic commandments, for Esoteric Philosophy solved, ages ago, the problem of what man *was, is, and will be*, his origin, life-cycle—interminable in its duration of successive incarnations or rebirths—and his final absorption into the Source from which he started.

But it is not Physical Science that we can ever ask to read man for us, as the riddle of the Past, or of the Future; since no Philosopher can tell us even what man is, as known to both Physiology and Psychology. In doubt whether man was a God or a beast, Science has now connected him with the latter and derives him from an animal. Certainly the task of analyzing and classifying the human being as a *terrestrial animal* may be left to Science, which Occultists, of all men, regard with veneration and respect. They recognize its ground and the wonderful work it has done, the progress achieved in Physiology, and even—to a degree—in Biology. But man's *inner*, spiritual, psychic, or even moral, nature cannot be left to the tender mercies of an ingrained Materialism, for not even the higher psychological Philosophy of the West is able, in its present incompleteness and tendency towards a decided Agnosticism, to do justice to the inner man, especially to his higher capacities and perceptions, and to those states of consciousness, across the road to which such authorities as Mill draw a strong line, saying "So far, and no farther shalt thou go."

No Occultist would deny that man—together with the elephant and the microbe, the crocodile and the lizard, the blade of grass and the crystal—is, in his physical formation, the simple product of the evolutionary forces of Nature through a numberless series of transformations; but he puts the case differently.

<sup>1</sup> Ibid, Question 123

It is not against zoological and anthropological discoveries, based on the fossils of man and animal, that every Mystic and believer in a Divine Soul inwardly revolts, but only against the uncalled-for conclusions built on pre-conceived theories and made to fit in with certain prejudices. The premisses of Scientists may or may not be always true, and as some of these theories live but a short life, the deductions therefrom must ever be one-sided with materialistic Evolutionists. Yet it is on the strength of such very ephemeral authority, that most of the men of Science frequently receive honours where they deserve them the least.<sup>1</sup>

To make the working of Karma—in the periodical renovations of the Universe—more evident and intelligible to the student when he arrives at the origin and evolution of man, he has now to examine with us the Esoteric bearing of the Kármic Cycles upon Universal Ethics. The question is, do those mysterious divisions of time, called Yugas and Kalpas by the Hindus, and, so very graphically, cycles (κύκλοι), rings or circles, by the Greeks, have any bearing upon, or any direct connection with, human life? Even exoteric Philosophy explains that these perpetual circles of time are ever returning on themselves, periodically and intelligently, in Space and Eternity. There are “Cycles of Matter,”<sup>2</sup> and there are “Cycles of Spiritual Evolution,” and racial, national, and individual Cycles. May not Esoteric speculation allow us a still deeper insight into their workings?

This idea is beautifully expressed in a very clever scientific work

The possibility of rising to a comprehension of a system of co-ordination so far outreaching in time and space all range of human observations, is a circumstance

<sup>1</sup> We refer those who would regard the statement as an impertinence or irreverence levelled at accepted Science, to Dr James Hutchinson Stirling's work *As regards Protoplasm*, which is a defence of a vital Principle versus the Molecularists—Huxley, Tyndall, Vogt, and Co.—and request them to examine whether it is true or not to say that, though the scientific premisses may not be always correct, they are, nevertheless, accepted to fill up a gap or a hole in some beloved materialistic hobby. Speaking of protoplasm and the organs of man, as “viewed by Prof. Huxley,” the author says “Probably then, in regard to any continuity in protoplasm of power, or form, or of substance, we have seen *lacunæ* enow. Nay, Prof. Huxley himself can be adduced in evidence on the same side. Not rarely do we find in his essay admissions of *probability*, where it is *certainty* that is alone in place. He says, for example ‘It is more than probable that when the vegetable world is thoroughly explored we shall find all plants in possession of the same powers’ When a conclusion is decidedly announced, it is rather disappointing to be told, as here, that the premisses are still to collect [! !] Again, here is a passage in which he is seen to cut his own ‘basis’ from beneath his own feet. After telling us that all forms of protoplasm consist of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen ‘in very complex union,’ he continues ‘To this complex combination, the nature of which has never been determined with exactness [! !], the name of *protein* has been applied’ This, plainly, is an identification, on Prof. Huxley's own part, of protoplasm and protein, and what is said of one, being necessarily true of the other, it follows that he admits the nature of protoplasm never to have been determined with exactness, and that even in his eyes the *is* is still *sub judice*. This admission is strengthened by the words, too, ‘If we use this term (protein) with such caution as may properly arise out of our comparative ignorance of the things for which it stands’ etc (pp 33 and 34, ed 1872, in reply to Prof. Huxley in *Yeast*)

This is the eminent Huxley, the king of physiology and biology, who is proven playing at blind man's buff with *premisses* and *facts*! What may not the “smaller fry” of Science do after this!

“The Cycles of Matter,” a name given by Professor Winchell to an Essay written in 1860

which signalizes the power of man to transcend the limitations of changing and inconstant matter, and assert his superiority over all insentient and perishable forms of being. There is a method in the succession of events, and in the relation of coexistent things, which the mind of man seizes hold of, and by means of this as a clue, he runs back or forward over æons of material history of which human experience can never testify. Events germinate and unfold. They have a past which is connected with their present, and we feel a well-justified confidence that a future is appointed which will be similarly connected with the present and the past. This continuity and unity of history repeat themselves before our eyes in all conceivable stages of progress. The phenomena furnish us the grounds for the generalization of two laws which are truly *principles of scientific divination*, by which alone the human mind penetrates the sealed records of the past and the unopened pages of the future. The first of these is the law of evolution, or, to phrase it for our purpose, *the law of correlated successiveness or organized history in the individual*, illustrated in the changing phases of every single maturing system of results. These thoughts summon into our immediate presence the measureless past and the measureless future of material history. They seem almost to open vistas through infinity, and to endow the human intellect with an existence and a vision exempt from the limitations of time and space and finite causation, and lift it up toward a sublime apprehension of the Supreme Intelligence whose dwelling place is eternity.<sup>1</sup>

According to the teachings, Mâyâ—the illusive appearance of the marshalling of events and actions on this Earth—changes, varying with nations and places. But the chief features of one's life are always in accordance with the "Constellation" under which one is born, or, we should say, with the characteristics of its animating principle or the Deity that presides over it, whether we call it a Dhyân Chohan, as in Asia, or an Archangel, as with the Greek and Latin Churches. In ancient Symbolism it was always the SUN—though the Spiritual, not the visible, Sun was meant—that was supposed to send forth the chief Saviours and Avatâras. Hence the connecting link between the Buddhas, the Avatâras, and so many other incarnations of the highest SEVEN. The closer the approach to one's Prototype, in "Heaven," the better for the mortal whose Personality was chosen, by his own personal Deity (the Seventh Principle), as its terrestrial abode. For, with every effort of will toward purification and unity with that "Self-God," one of the lower Rays breaks, and the spiritual entity of man is drawn higher and ever higher to the Ray that supersedes the first, until, from Ray to Ray, the Inner Man is drawn into the one and highest Beam of the Parent-SUN. Thus, "the events of humanity do run co-ordinately with the number forms," since the single units of that humanity proceed one and all from the same source—the Central Sun and its shadow, the visible. For the equinoxes and solstices, the periods and various phases of the solar course, astronomically and numerically expressed, are only the concrete symbols of the eternally living verity, though they do seem *abstract ideas* to uninitiated mortals. And this explains the

<sup>1</sup> *World-Life*, pp. 534-5 and 548

extraordinary numerical coincidences with geometrical relations, shown by several authors.

Yes, "our destiny is written in the stars" <sup>1</sup> Only, the closer the union between the mortal reflection MAN and his celestial PROTOTYPE, the less dangerous the external conditions and subsequent reincarnations—which neither Buddhas nor Christs can escape. This is not superstition, least of all is it *fatalism*. The latter implies a blind course of some still blinder power, but man is a free agent during his stay on earth. He cannot escape his *ruling* Destiny, but he has the choice of two paths that lead him in that direction, and he can reach the goal of misery—if such is decreed to him—either in the snowy white robes of the martyr, or in the soiled garments of a volunteer in the iniquitous course; for there are *external* and *internal conditions* which affect the determination of our will upon our actions, and it is in our power to follow either of the two. Those who believe in *Karma* have to believe in *Destiny*, which, from birth to death, every man weaves thread by thread round himself, as a spider his web; and this Destiny is guided either by the heavenly voice of the invisible *Prototype* outside of us, or by our more intimate *astral*, or inner man, who is but too often the evil genius of the embodied entity called man. Both these lead on the outward man, but one of them must prevail; and from the very beginning of the invisible affray the stern and implacable *Law of Compensation* steps in and takes its course, faithfully following the fluctuations of the fight. When the last strand is woven, and man is seemingly enwrapped in the network of his own doing then he finds himself completely under the empire of this *self-made* Destiny. It then either fixes him like the inert shell against the immovable rock, or carries him away like a feather in a whirlwind raised by his own actions, and this is—KARMA.

A Materialist, treating of the periodical creations of our globe, has expressed it in a single sentence:

The whole past of the earth is nothing but an unfolded present

The writer was Buchner, who little suspected that he was repeating an axiom of the occultists. It is quite true also, as Burmeister remarks, that:

This historical investigation of the development of the earth has proved that *now* and *then* rest upon the same base, that the past has been developed in the same manner as the present rolls on, and that the forces which were in action ever remained the same <sup>1</sup>

The "Forces"—their *Noumena* rather—are the same, of course; therefore, the phenomenal Forces must be the same also. But how can any one

<sup>1</sup> Quoted in Buchner's *Forces and Matter*.

feel so sure that the attributes of Matter have not altered under the hand of Protean Evolution? How can any Materialist assert with such confidence, as is done by Rossmassler, that :

This eternal conformity in the essence of phenomena renders it certain that fire and water possessed at all times the same powers and ever will possess them.

Who are they "that darken counsel with words without knowledge," and where were the Huxleys and Buchners when the foundations of the Earth were laid by the Great Law? This same homogeneity of Matter and immutability of natural laws, which are so much insisted upon by Materialism, are a fundamental principle of the Occult Philosophy; but this unity rests upon the inseparability of Spirit from Matter, and, if the two were once divorced, the whole Kosmos would fall back into Chaos and Non-being. Therefore, it is absolutely false, and but an additional demonstration of the great conceit of our age, to assert, as men of Science do, that all the great geological changes and terrible convulsions of the past have been produced by *ordinary and known physical Forces*. For these Forces were but the tools and final means for the accomplishment of certain purposes, acting periodically, and apparently mechanically, through an inward impulse mixed up with, but beyond their material nature. There is a purpose in every important act of Nature, whose acts are all cyclic and periodical. But spiritual Forces having been usually confused with the purely physical, the former are denied by, and therefore, because left unexamined, have to remain unknown to Science.<sup>1</sup> Says Hegel :

The history of the World begins with its general aim, the realization of the Idea of Spirit—only in an *implicit* form (*an sich*), that is, as Nature, a hidden, most profoundly hidden, unconscious instinct, and the whole process of History is directed to rendering this unconscious impulse a conscious one. Thus appearing in the form of merely natural existence, natural will—that which has been called the subjective side—physical craving, instinct, passion, private interest, as also opinion and subjective conception—spontaneously present themselves at the very commencement. This vast congeries of volitions, interests and activities constitute the instruments and means of the World-Spirit for attaining its object, bringing it to consciousness and realizing it. And this aim is none other than finding itself—coming to itself—and contemplating itself in concrete actuality. But that those manifestations of vitality on the part of individuals and peoples, in which they seek and satisfy their own purposes, are at the same time the means and instruments of a higher and broader purpose of which they know nothing—which they realize unconsciously—might be made a matter of question, rather has been questioned. On this point I announced my view at the very outset, and asserted our hypothesis and our belief that Reason governs the World and has consequently governed its history. In relation to this independently

<sup>1</sup> Men of Science will say "We deny, because nothing of the kind has ever come within the scope of our experience. But, as argued by Charles Richet, the Psychologist, "So be it, but have you at least demonstrated the contrary?" Do not, at any rate, deny *a priori*. Actual Science is not sufficiently advanced to give you such right."—*La Suggestion Mentale et le Calcul des Probabilités*.

universal and substantial existence—all else is subordinate, subservient to it, and the means for its development.<sup>1</sup>

No Metaphysician or Theosophist could demur to these truths, which are all embodied in Esoteric Teachings. There is a predestination in the geological life of our globe, as in the history, past and future, of races and nations. This is closely connected with what we call Karma, and what Western Pantheists called Nemesis and Cycles. The law of evolution is now carrying us along the ascending arc of our cycle, when the effects will be once more re-merged into, and re-become the now neutralized causes, all things affected by the former will have regained their original harmony. This will be the cycle of our special "Round," a moment in the duration of the Great Cycle, or Mahâyuga.

The fine philosophical remarks of Hegel are found to have their application in the teachings of Occult Science, which shows Nature ever acting with a given purpose, whose results are always dual. This was stated in our first Occult volumes, in the following words :

As our planet revolves once every year around the sun, and at the same time turns once in every twenty-four hours upon its own axis, thus traversing minor circles within a larger one, so is the work of the smaller cyclic periods accomplished and recommenced within the Great Saros. The revolution of the physical world, according to the ancient doctrine, is attended by a like revolution in the world of intellect—the spiritual evolution of the world proceeding in cycles, like the physical one. Thus we see in history a regular alternation of ebb and flow in the tide of human progress. The great kingdoms and empires of the world, after reaching the culmination of their greatness, descend again, in accordance with the same law by which they ascended, till, having reached the lowest point, humanity reasserts itself and mounts up once more, the height of its attainment being, by this law of ascending progression by cycles, somewhat higher than the point from which it had before descended.<sup>2</sup>

But these cycles—wheels within wheels, so comprehensively and ingeniously symbolized by the various Manus and Rishis in India, and by the Kabeiri in the West<sup>3</sup> do not affect all mankind at one and the same time. Hence, as we see, the difficulty of comprehending, and of discriminating between them, with regard to their physical and spiritual effects, without having thoroughly mastered their relations with, and action upon, the respective positions of

<sup>1</sup> *Lectures on the Philosophy of History*, p. 26. Sibree's Eng. Transl.

<sup>2</sup> *Isis Unveiled*, I, p. 34.

<sup>3</sup> This symbolism does not prevent these now seemingly mythic personages from having ruled the Earth once upon a time under the human form of actual living, though truly divine and god-like Men. The opinion of Colonel Vallancey—and also of Count de Gebelin—that the "names of the Kabeiri appear to be all allegorical, and to have signified no more [?] than an almanac of the vicissitudes of the seasons—calculated for the operations of agriculture" (*Collect de Reb. Hibern.*, No. 13, Præf. Sect. 5), is as absurd as his assertion that Æon, Kronos, Saturn and Dagon are all one, namely, the "patriarch Adam." The Kabeiri were the instructors of mankind in agriculture, because they were the Regents over the seasons and Cosmic Cycles. Hence it was they who regulated, as Planetary Spirits or Angels (Messengers), the mysteries of the art of agriculture.

nations and races, in their destiny and evolution. This system cannot be comprehended if the spiritual action of these periods—*preordained*, so to say, by Karmic law—is separated from their physical course. The calculations of the best Astrologers would fail, or at any rate remain imperfect, unless this dual action is thoroughly taken into consideration and mastered upon these lines. And this mastery can be achieved only through INITIATION.

The Grand Cycle includes the progress of mankind from the appearance of primordial man of ethereal form. It runs through the inner Cycles of man's progressive evolution from the ethereal down to the semi-ethereal and purely physical; down to the redemption of man from his "coat of skin" and matter, after which it continues running its course downward and then upward again, to meet at the culmination of a Round, when the Manvantaric Serpent "swallows its tail" and seven Minor Cycles are passed. These are the great Racial Cycles which affect equally all the nations and tribes included in that special Race; but there are minor and national, as well as tribal, Cycles within these, which run their course independently of each other. They are called in Eastern Esotericism the Kârmic Cycles. In the West—since Pagan Wisdom has been repudiated as having grown from and been developed by the Dark Powers, supposed to be at constant war with and in opposition to the little tribal Jehovah—the full and awful significance of the Greek Nemesis, or Karma, has been entirely forgotten. Otherwise Christians would have better realized the profound truth that Nemesis is without attributes; that while the dreaded Goddess is absolute and immutable as a Principle, it is we ourselves—nations and individuals—who propel it to action and give the impulse to its direction. Karma-Nemesis is the creator of nations and mortals, but once created, it is they who make of her either a Fury or a rewarding Angel. Yea—

Wise are they who worship Nemesis<sup>1</sup>

—as the Chorus tells Prometheus. And as unwise they, who believe that the Goddess may be propitiated by any sacrifices and prayers, or have her wheel diverted from the path it has once taken. "The triform Fates and ever mindful Furies" are her attributes only on Earth, and begotten by ourselves. There is no return from the paths she cycles over, yet those paths are of our own making, for it is we, collectively or individually, who prepare them. Karma-Nemesis is the synonym of PROVIDENCE, *minus* design, goodness, and every other *finite* attribute and qualification, so unphilosophically attributed to the latter. An Occultist or a Philosopher will not speak of the goodness or cruelty of Providence; but, identifying it with Karma-Nemesis, he will nevertheless teach that it guards the good and watches over them in this, as in

<sup>1</sup> "Who dread Karma-Nemesis," would be better.



future lives ; and that it punishes the evil-doer—aye, even to his seventh rebirth—so long, indeed, as the effect of his having thrown into perturbation even the smallest atom in the Infinite World of Harmony has not been finally readjusted. For the only decree of Karma—an eternal and immutable decree—is absolute Harmony in the world of Matter as it is in the world of Spirit. It is not, therefore, Karma that rewards or punishes, but it is we who reward or punish ourselves, according as we work with, through and along with Nature, abiding by the laws on which that harmony depends, or—breaking them

Nor would the ways of Karma be inscrutable were men to work in union and harmony, instead of disunion and strife. For our ignorance of these ways—which one portion of mankind calls the ways of providence, dark and intricate, while another sees in them the action of blind Fatalism, and a third, simple Chance, with neither Gods nor Devils to guide them—would surely disappear, if we would but attribute all of them to their correct cause. With right knowledge, or at any rate with a confident conviction that our neighbours would no more work to hurt us than we would think of harming them, two-thirds of the world's evil would vanish into thin air. Were no man to hurt his brother, Karma-Nemesis would have neither cause to work for, nor weapons to act through. It is the constant presence in our midst of every element of strife and opposition, and the division of races, nations, tribes, societies and individuals into Cains and Abels, wolves and lambs, that is the chief cause of the "ways of Providence." We cut these numerous windings in our destinies daily with our own hands, while we imagine that we are pursuing a track on the royal high road of respectability and duty, and then we complain because these windings are so intricate and so dark. We stand bewildered before the mystery of our own making, and the riddles of life that we *will not* solve, and then accuse the great Sphinx of devouring us. But verily there is not an accident in our lives, not a misshapen day, or a misfortune, that could not be traced back to our own doings in this or in another life. If one breaks the laws of Harmony, or, as a Theosophical writer expresses it, the "laws of life," one must be prepared to fall into the chaos oneself has produced. For, according to the same writer :

The only conclusion one can come to is that these laws of life are their own avengers, and consequently that every avenging angel is only a typified representation of their reaction

Therefore, if any one is helpless before these immutable laws, it is not ourselves, the artificers of our destinies, but rather those Angels, the guardians of Harmony. Karma-Nemesis is no more than the spiritual dynamical effect

of causes produced, and forces awakened into activity, by our own actions. It is a law of Occult dynamics that

*“ a given amount of energy expended on the spiritual or astral plane is productive of far greater results than the same amount expended on the physical objective plane of existence.”*

This condition of things will last till man's spiritual intuitions are fully opened, and this will not be until we fairly cast off our thick coats of Matter ; until we begin acting from *within*, instead of ever following impulses from *without*, impulses produced by our physical senses and gross selfish body. Until then the only palliatives for the evils of life are union and harmony—a Brotherhood IN ACTU, and Altruism not simply in name. The suppression of one single bad cause will suppress not one, but many bad effects. And if a Brotherhood, or even a number of Brotherhoods, may not be able to prevent nations from occasionally cutting each other's throats, still unity in thought and action, and philosophical research into the mysteries of being, will always prevent some persons, who are trying to comprehend that which has hitherto remained to them a riddle, from creating additional causes of mischief in a world already so full of woe and evil. Knowledge of Karma gives the conviction that if

. . . virtue in distress, and vice in triumph  
Make atheists of mankind,<sup>1</sup>

it is only because mankind has ever shut its eyes to the great truth that man is himself his own saviour and his own destroyer. He need not accuse Heaven and the Gods, Fates and Providence, of the apparent injustice that reigns in the midst of humanity. But let him rather remember and repeat this fragment of Grecian wisdom, which warns man to forbear accusing  
*That which*

Just, though mysterious, leads us on unerring  
Through ways unmark'd from guilt to punishment ,

and such are now the ways on which the great European nations move onward. Every nation and tribe of the Western Âryans, like their Eastern brethren of the Fifth Race, has had its Golden and its Iron<sup>1</sup> Age, its period of comparative irresponsibility, or its Satya Age of purity, and now, several of them have reached their Iron Age, the KALI YUGA, an age *Black with horrors*.

On the other hand, it is true that the exoteric Cycles of every nation have been rightly derived from, and shown to depend on, sidereal motions. The latter are inseparably blended with the destinies of nations and men.

<sup>1</sup> Dryden  
S 24

But, in the purely physical sense, Europe knows of no Cycles other than the astronomical, and it makes its computations accordingly. Nor will it hear of any other than imaginary circles or circuits in the starry heavens that gird them,

With centric and eccentric scribbled o'er  
Cycle and epicycle, orb in orb<sup>1</sup>

But with the Pagans—of whom Coleridge rightly says, “Time, cyclical time, was their abstraction of the Deity,” that “Deity” manifesting co-ordinately with, and only through, Karma, and being that KARMA-NEMESIS itself—the Cycles meant something more than a mere succession of events, or a periodical space of time of more or less prolonged duration. For they were generally marked with recurrences of a more varied and intellectual character than are exhibited in the periodical return of seasons or of certain constellations. Modern wisdom is satisfied with astronomical computations and prophecies, based on unerring mathematical laws. Ancient Wisdom added to the cold shell of Astronomy the vivifying elements of its soul and spirit—ASTROLOGY. And, as the sidereal motions do regulate and determine other events on Earth—besides potatoes and the periodical diseases of that useful vegetable (a statement which, not being amenable to scientific explanation, is merely derided, while none the less accepted)—these events have to submit to predetermination, by simple astronomical computations. Believers in Astrology will understand our meaning, sceptics will laugh at the belief and mock the idea. Thus they shut their eyes, ostrich-like, to their own fate.<sup>2</sup>

This because their little *historical* period, so-called, allows them no margin for comparison. Sidereal heaven is before them, and though their spiritual vision is still unopened, and the atmospheric dust of terrestrial origin seals their sight and chains it within the limits of physical systems, still they do not fail to perceive the movements and note the behaviour of meteors and comets. They record the periodical advents of those wanderers and “flaming

<sup>1</sup> *Paradise Lost*, Bk. viii

<sup>2</sup> Not all, however, for there are men of Science awakening to truth. This is what we read: “Whichever way we turn our eyes we encounter a mystery. . . all in Nature for us is the unknown.”

Yet they are numerous, those superficial minds for whom nothing can be produced by natural forces outside of facts observed long ago, consecrated in books and grouped more or less skilfully with the help of theories whose ephemeral duration ought, by this time, to have demonstrated their insufficiency. . . . I do not pretend to contest the possibility of invisible beings, of a nature different from ours and capable of moving matter to action. Profound philosophers have admitted this in all epochs, as a consequence of the great law of continuity which rules the universe. That intellectual life, which we see starting in some way from non-being (*néant*) and gradually reaching man, can it stop abruptly at man to reappear only in the infinite, in the sovereign regulator of the world? This is little probable. . . . Therefore, “I no more deny the existence of spirits than I deny soul, while I yet try to explain certain facts without this hypothesis.” *The Non-Defined Forces, Historical and Experimental Researches*, p. 3 (Paris, 1877). The author is A. de Rochas, a well-known man of Science in France, and his work is one of the signs of the time.

messengers," and prophesy, in consequence, earthquakes, meteoric showers, the apparition of certain stars, comets, etc. Are they, then, soothsayers after all? No; they are learned Astronomers.

Why, then, should Occultists and Astrologers, as learned as these Astronomers, be disbelieved when they prophesy the return of some cyclic event on the same mathematical principles? Why should the claim that they know this return be ridiculed? Their forefathers and predecessors, having recorded the recurrence of such events in their time and day, throughout a period embracing hundreds of thousands of years, the conjunction of the same constellations must necessarily produce if not quite the same, at any rate similar, effects. Are the prophecies to be derided, because of the claim made for hundreds of thousands of years of observation, and for millions of years for the human Races? In its turn, Modern Science is laughed at by those who hold to Biblical chronology, for its far more modest geological and anthropological figures. Thus Karma adjusts even human laughter, at the mutual expense of sects, learned societies, and individuals. Yet in the prognostication of *such* future events, at any rate, all foretold on the authority of cyclic recurrences, no psychic phenomenon is involved. It is neither *pre-vision*, nor *prophecy*; any more than is the signalling of a comet or star, several years before its appearance. It is simply knowledge, and mathematically correct computations, which enable the WISE MEN OF THE EAST to foretell, for instance, that England is on the eve of such or another catastrophe; that France is nearing such a point of her Cycle; and that Europe in general is threatened with, or rather is on the eve of, a cataclysm, to which her own Cycle of racial *Karma* has led her. Our view of the reliability of the information depends, of course, on our acceptance or rejection of the claim for a tremendous period of historical observation. Eastern Initiates maintain that they have preserved records of racial development and of events of universal import ever since the beginning of the Fourth Race—their knowledge of events preceding that epoch being traditional. Moreover, those who believe in Seership and in Occult Powers will have no difficulty in crediting the general character, at least, of the information given, even if it be traditional, once the tradition is checked and corrected by clairvoyance and Esoteric Knowledge. But in the present case no such metaphysical belief is claimed as our chief dependence, for proof is given—on what, to every Occultist, is quite scientific evidence—the records preserved through the *Zodiac* for incalculable ages.

It is now amply proved that even horoscopes and judiciary Astrology are not quite based on fiction, and that Stars and Constellations, consequently, have

an occult and mysterious influence on, and connection with, individuals. And if with the latter, why not with nations, races, and mankind as a whole? This, again, is a claim made on the authority of the Zodiacal records. We shall then enquire how far the Zodiac was known to the Ancients, and how far it is forgotten by the Moderns.

## SECTION 16

### THE ZODIAC AND ITS ANTIQUITY

“ALL men are apt to have a high conceit of their own understanding, and to be tenacious of the opinions they profess,” said Jordan, justly adding to this —“and yet almost all men are guided by the understandings of others, not by their own, and may be said more truly to adopt, than to beget, their opinions.”

This is doubly true in regard to scientific opinions upon hypotheses offered for consideration—the prejudice and preconceptions of “authorities,” so called, often deciding upon questions of the most vital importance for history. There are several such predetermined opinions held by our learned Orientalists, and few are more unjust or *illogical* than the general error with regard to the antiquity of the Zodiac. Thanks to the hobby of some German Orientalists, English and American Sanskritists have accepted Professor Weber’s opinion that the peoples of India had no idea or knowledge of the Zodiac prior to the Macedonian invasion, and that it is from the Greeks that the ancient Hindus imported it into their country. We are further told, by several other “authorities,” that no Eastern nation knew of the Zodiac before the Hellenes kindly acquainted their neighbours with their invention. And *this*, in the face of the *Book of Job*, which is declared, even by themselves, to be the oldest in the Hebrew canon, and certainly prior to Moses; a book which speaks of the *making* of “Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades [Osh, Kesil, and Kimah] and the chambers of the South”<sup>1</sup>; of Scorpio and the Mazaroth—the TWELVE SIGNS<sup>2</sup>, words which, if they mean anything, imply knowledge of the Zodiac even among the nomadic Arabian tribes. The *Book of Job* is alleged to have preceded Homer and Hesiod by at least one thousand years—the two Greek poets having themselves flourished some eight centuries before the Christian era (!!). Though, by the bye, one who prefers to believe Plato—who shows Homer flourishing far earlier—could point to a number of

<sup>1</sup> Ch. ix, 9.

<sup>2</sup> Ch. xxxviii, 31, 32.

Zodiacal signs mentioned in the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, in the Orphic poems, and elsewhere. But since the cock-and-bull hypothesis of some modern critics that, so far from Orpheus, not even Homer or Hesiod has ever existed, it would seem time lost to mention these archaic authors at all. The Arabian *Job* will suffice; unless, indeed, his volume of lamentations, along with the poems of the two Greeks, to which we may add those of Linus, should now also be declared to be the patriotic forgery of the Jew Aristobulus. But if the Zodiac was known in the days of Job, how could the civilized and philosophical Hindus have remained ignorant of it?

Risking the arrows of modern criticism—rather blunted by misuse—the reader may make himself acquainted with M. Bailly's learned opinion upon the subject. Inferred speculations may be shown to be erroneous. Mathematical calculations stand on more secure grounds. Taking as a starting point several astronomical references in *Job*, M. Bailly devised a very ingenious means of proving that the earliest founders of the Science of the Zodiac belonged to an antediluvian, primitive people. The fact that he seems willing to see some of the Biblical patriarchs in Thoth, Seth, and in the Chinese Fohi, does not interfere with the validity of his proof as to the antiquity of the Zodiac.<sup>1</sup> Even accepting, for argument's sake, his cautious 3700 years B C as the correct age of the Zodiacal Science, this date proves in the most irrefutable way that it was not the Greeks who invented the Zodiac, for the simple reason that they did not exist as a nation thirty-seven centuries B C—at any rate not as a *historical* race admitted by the critics. M. Bailly then calculated the period at which the constellations manifested the atmospheric influence called by Job the "sweet influences of the Pleiades,"<sup>2</sup> in Hebrew Kimah, that of Orion, Kesil; and that of the desert rains with reference to *Scorpio*, the eighth constellation; and found that in presence of the eternal conformity of these divisions of the Zodiac, and of the names of the planets applied in the same order everywhere and always, and in presence of the impossibility of attributing it all to chance and "coincidence"—"which never creates such similarities"—a very great antiquity indeed must be allowed for the Zodiac.<sup>3</sup>

Again, if the *Bible* is supposed to be an authority on any matter—and there are some who still regard it as such, whether from Christian or Kabalistical considerations—then the Zodiac is clearly mentioned in *II Kings*, xxiii, 5. Before the "book of the law" was "found" by Hilkiah, the high priest (xxii, 8)

<sup>1</sup> *Astronomie Antique*, p. 53, Tome iv, in *Des Esprits*.

<sup>2</sup> The Pleiades, as all know, are the seven stars beyond the Bull, which appear at the beginning of spring. They have a very Occult meaning in the Hindu Esoteric Philosophy, and are connected with Sound and other mystic principles in Nature.

<sup>3</sup> See *Astronomie Antique*, pp. 63-8, *ibid*.

the signs of the Zodiac were known and worshipped. These were held in the same adoration as the Sun and Moon, since the

priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense . . . unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven<sup>1</sup>

or to the "twelve signs or constellations," as the marginal note in the English Bible explains, had followed the injunction for centuries. They were stopped in their idolatry only by King Josiah, 624 B. C.

The *Old Testament* is full of allusions to the twelve zodiacal signs, and the whole scheme is built upon it—heroes, personages, and events. Thus in the dream of Joseph, who saw eleven "Stars" bowing to the *twelfth*, which was his "Star," the Zodiac is referred to. The Roman Catholics have discovered in it, moreover, a prophecy of Christ, who is that twelfth Star, they say, and the others the eleven apostles; the absence of the twelfth being also regarded as a prophetic allusion to the treachery of Judas. The twelve sons of Jacob, again, are a reference to the same, as is justly pointed out by Villapandus.<sup>2</sup> Sir James Malcolm, in his *History of Persia*,<sup>3</sup> shows the *Dabistan* echoing all such traditions about the Zodiac. He traces the invention of it to the palmy days of the Golden Age of Iran, remarking that one of the said traditions maintains that the Genii of the planets are represented under the same shapes and figures they had assumed when *they showed themselves to several holy prophets*, and thus led to the establishment of the rites based on the Zodiac.

Pythagoras, and after him Philo Judæus, held the number 12 as very sacred.

This duodenary number is perfect. It is that of the signs of the Zodiac, which the sun visits in twelve months, and it is to honour that number that Moses divided his nation into twelve tribes, established the twelve cakes<sup>4</sup> of the shewbread, and placed twelve precious stones upon the breast-plate of the pontiffs.<sup>5</sup>

According to Seneca, Berosus taught prophecy of every future event and cataclysm by the Zodiac; and the times fixed by him for the conflagration of the World—Pralaya—and for a deluge, are found to answer to the times given in an ancient Egyptian papyrus. Such a catastrophe comes at every renewal of the cycle of the Sidereal Year of 25,868 years. The names of the Akkadian months were called by, and derived from, the names of the signs of the Zodiac, and the Akkadians are far earlier than the Chaldeans. Mr. Proctor shows, in his *Myths and Marvels of Astronomy*, that the ancient

<sup>1</sup> II Kings, xxiii, 5

<sup>2</sup> *Temple de Jerusalem*, Vol. II Part II, xxx, [*Des Esprits*, Tome iv, p. 58],

<sup>3</sup> Ch. vii, [*Des Esprits*, Tome iv, p. 55].

<sup>4</sup> *Leviticus*, xxiv, 5.

<sup>5</sup> Quoted by De Mirville, *Des Esprits*, Tome iv, pp. 58-9.



Astronomers had acquired a system of the most accurate Astronomy 2,400 years B.C., the Hindus date their Kali Yuga from a great periodical conjunction of the planets thirty-one centuries B.C., but, withal, it was the Greeks, belonging to the expedition of Alexander the Great, who were the instructors of the Âryan Hindus in Astronomy.<sup>1</sup>

Whether the origin of the Zodiac is Âryan or Egyptian, it is still of an immense antiquity. Simplicius, in the sixth century A.D., writes that he had always heard that the Egyptians had kept astronomical observations and records for a period of 630,000 years. This statement appears to frighten Mr. Gerald Massey, who remarks on it that :

If we read this number of years by the month which Euxodus said the Egyptians termed a year, i.e., a course of time, that would still yield the length of two cycles of precession [51,736 years].<sup>2</sup>

Diogenes Laertius carried back the astronomical calculations of the Egyptians to 48,863 years before Alexander the Great.<sup>3</sup> Martianus Capella corroborates this by telling posterity that the Egyptians had secretly studied Astronomy for over 40,000 years, before they imparted their knowledge to the world.<sup>4</sup>

Several valuable quotations are made in *Natural Genesis* with the view of supporting the author's theories, but they justify the teaching of the Secret Doctrine far more. For instance, Plutarch is quoted from his *Life of Sulla*, saying :

One day when the sky was serene and clear, there was heard in it the sound of a trumpet, so loud, shrill, and mournful, that it affrighted and astonished the world. The Tuscan sages said that it portended a new race of men and a renovation of the world ; for they affirmed that there were eight several kinds of men, all being different in life and manners ; and that Heaven had allotted each its time, which was limited by circuit of the great year [25,868 years].<sup>5</sup>

This reminds one strongly of our Seven Races of men, and of the eighth—the “ animal man ”—descended from the later Third Race ; as also of the successive submersions and destruction of the continents which finally disposed of almost all that Race. Says Iamblichus :

The Assyrians have not only preserved the memorials of seven-and-twenty myriads of years [270,000 years], as Hipparchus says they have, but likewise of the whole apocatastases and periods of the Seven Rulers of the World.<sup>6</sup>

This is as nearly as possible the calculation of the Esoteric Doctrine. For 1,000,000 years are allowed for our present Root-Race (the Fifth), and about 850,000 years have passed since the submersion of the last large island—part

<sup>1</sup> *Natural Genesis*, Vol. II, p. 318.

<sup>2</sup> *Astronomy of the Ancients*, Lewis, p. 264.

<sup>3</sup> Proclus, *In Timæum*, I.

<sup>4</sup> Proem 2.

<sup>5</sup> *Natural Genesis*, Vol. II, p. 319

of the continent of Atlantis—the Ruta of the Fourth Race, the Atlanteans ; while Daitya, a small island inhabited by a mixed race, was destroyed about 270,000 years ago, during the Glacial Period or thereabouts. (See Volumes 3 and 4). But the Seven Rulers, or the seven great Dynasties of the *Divine Kings*, belong to the traditions of every great people of antiquity. Wherever twelve are mentioned, they are invariably the twelve signs of the Zodiac.

So patent is this fact, that the Roman Catholic writers—especially among the French Ultramontanes—have tacitly agreed to connect the twelve Jewish Patriarchs with the Signs of the Zodiac. This is done in a kind of propheticomystic way, which sounds to pious and ignorant ears like a portentous token, a tacit divine recognition of the “chosen people of God,” whose finger has purposely traced in heaven, from the beginning of creation, the numbers of these Patriarchs. For instance, curiously enough, these writers, De Mirville among others, recognize all the characteristics of the twelve Signs of the Zodiac, in the words addressed by the dying Jacob to his Sons, and in his definitions of the future of each Tribe<sup>1</sup> Moreover, the respective banners of the same tribes are said to have exhibited the same symbols and the same names as the Signs, repeated in the twelve stones of the Urim and Thummim, and on the twelve wings of the two Cherubs. Leaving to the said Mystics the proof of exactitude in the alleged correspondence, we quote it as follows. Man, or Aquarius, is in the sphere of Reuben, who is declared as “unstable as water” (the Vulgate has it, “*rushing* like water”), Gemini, in that of Simeon and Levi, because of their strong fraternal association, Leo, in that of Judah, “the strong Lion” of his tribe, “the lion’s whelp”, Pisces, in Zabulon, who “shall dwell at the haven of the sea”; Taurus, in Issachar, because he is “a strong ass couching down,” etc., and therefore associated with the stables; (Virgo-) Scorpio, in Dan, who is described as “a serpent, an adder in the path that biteth,” etc; Capricornus, in Naphtali, who is “a hind (a deer) let loose”; Cancer, in Benjamin, for he is “ravenous”, Libra, the Balance, in Asher, whose “bread shall be fat”, Sagittarius in Joseph, because “his bow abode in strength”<sup>2</sup> To make up for the twelfth Sign, Virgo, made independent of Scorpio, we have Dinah, the only daughter of Jacob. Tradition shows the *alleged* tribes carrying the twelve signs on their banners. But indeed the *Bible*, in addition to the above, is filled with theo-cosmological and astronomical symbols and personifications.

It remains to wonder, and to query—if the actual, living Patriarchs’ destiny was so indissolubly wound up with the Zodiac—how it is that, after the

<sup>1</sup> Genesis, xlix

<sup>2</sup> [Omitted Aries, in Gad, “A troop shall overcome him, but he shall overcome at the last”]

loss of the ten tribes, the ten signs also out of the twelve have not miraculously disappeared from the sidereal fields? But this is of no great concern. Let us rather busy ourselves with the history of the Zodiac itself.

The reader may be reminded of some opinions expressed as to the Zodiac by several of the highest authorities in Science.

Newton believed that the invention of the Zodiac could be traced as far back as the expedition of the Argonauts, and Dulaure fixed its origin at 6,500 years B.C., just 2,496 years before the creation of the world, according to the Bible chronology.

Creuzer thought that it was very easy to show that most of the Theogonies were intimately connected with religious calendars, and were related to the Zodiac as to their prime origin; if not to the Zodiac known to us now, then to something very analogous with it. He felt certain that the Zodiac and its mystic relations are at the bottom of all the mythologies, under one form or another, and that it had existed in the old form for ages, before it was brought out in the present defined astronomical garb, owing to some singular co-ordination of events.<sup>1</sup>

Whether the "genii of the planets," our Dhyân Chohans of supra-mundane spheres, showed themselves to "holy prophets," or not, as claimed in the *Dabistân*, it would seem that great laymen and warriors were favoured in the same way in days of old in Chaldea, when astrological Magic and *Theophania* went hand in hand.

Xenophon, no ordinary man, narrates of Cyrus that at the moment of his death he thanked the Gods and heroes, for having so often instructed him themselves about the signs in heaven (*ἐν οὐρανίοις σημείοις*).<sup>2</sup>

Unless the Science of the Zodiac is admitted to be of the highest antiquity and universality, how can we account for its Signs being traced in the oldest Theogonies? Laplace is said to have felt struck with amazement at the idea of the days of Mercury (Wednesday), Venus (Friday), Jupiter (Thursday), Saturn (Saturday), and others, being related to the days of the week in the same order and with the same names in India as in Northern Europe.

Try, if you can, with the present system of autochthonous civilizations, so much in fashion in our day, to explain how nations with no ancestry, no traditions or birthplace in common, could have succeeded in inventing a kind of celestial phantasmagoria, a veritable *imbroglio* of sidereal denominations, without sequence or object, having no figurative relation with the constellations they represent, and still less, apparently, with the phases of our terrestrial life they are made to signify.

<sup>1</sup> Creuzer, Vol. III, p. 930.

<sup>2</sup> *Cyropédie*, VIII, p. 7, as quoted in *Des Esprits*, Tome IV, p. 55.

—had there not been a *general* intention and a *universal* cause and belief, at the root of all this !<sup>1</sup> Most truly has Dupuis asserted the same :

Il est impossible de découvrir le moindre trait de ressemblance entre les parties du ciel et les figures que les astronomes y ont *arbitrairement* tracés , et de l'autre côté, le *hasard* est impossible<sup>2</sup>

Most certainly chance is "*impossible*." There is no "chance" in Nature, wherein everything is mathematically co-ordinate, and interrelated in its units. Says Coleridge .

Chance is but the pseudonym of God [or Nature], for those particular cases which He does not choose to subscribe openly with His sign manual

Replace the word "God" by *Karma*, and it will become an Eastern axiom. Therefore, the *sidereal* "prophecies" of the Zodiac, as they are called by Christian Mystics, never point to any one particular event, however solemn and sacred it may be for some one portion of humanity, but to ever-recurrent, periodical laws in Nature, understood only by the Initiates of the *Sidereal Gods* themselves.

No Occultist, no Astrologer of Eastern birth, will ever agree with Christian Mystics, or even with Kepler's mystical Astronomy, his great science and erudition notwithstanding , and this because, if his premisses are quite correct, his deductions therefrom are one-sided and biassed by Christian preconceptions. Where Kepler finds a prophecy directly pointing to the Saviour, other nations see a symbol of an eternal law, decreed for the actual *Manvantara*. Why see in Pisces a direct reference to Christ—one of the several world-reformers, a Saviour for his direct followers, but only a great and glorious Initiate for all the rest—when that constellation shines as a symbol of all the past, present, and future Spiritual Saviours, who dispense light and dispel mental darkness? Christian symbologists have tried to prove that this sign belonged to Ephraim, Joseph's son, the *elect* of Jacob, and that therefore, it was at the moment of the Sun's entering into the sign of Pisces, the Fish, that the "Elect Messiah," the Ἰησοῦς of the first Christians, had to be born. But if Jesus of Nazareth was that Messiah, was he really born at that "moment," or was his birth-hour thus fixed by the adaptation of Theologians, who sought only to make their preconceived ideas fit in with *sidereal facts* and popular belief? Everyone is aware that the real time and year of the birth of Jesus are totally unknown. And it is the Jews—whose forefathers made the word *Dag* signify

<sup>1</sup> *Des Esprits*, Tome iv, pp 59, 60

<sup>2</sup> *Origine des Cultes*, "Zodiaque," *ibid* , p 61 [It is impossible to trace the slightest resemblance between the divisions of the heavens and the figures that the astronomers have, quite arbitrarily, traced there , but on the other hand chance is impossible ]

both "Fish" and "Messiah" during the forced development of their rabbinical language—who are the first to deny this Christian claim. And what of the further facts that Brâhmans connect their "Messiah," the eternal Avatâra Vishnu, with a Fish and the Deluge, and that the Babylonians also made a Fish and a Messiah of their Dag-On, the Man-Fish and Prophet?

There are learned iconoclasts among Egyptologists, who say that

When the Pharisees sought a "sign from heaven," Jesus said, "there shall no sign be given . . . but the sign of the prophet Jonas." (*Mat*, xvi, 1, 4) . . . The sign of Jonas is that of the Oan or Fish-Man of Nineveh. . . . Assuredly there was no other sign than that of the Sun reborn in Pisces. The voice of the Secret Wisdom says those who are looking for signs can have no other than that of the returning Fish-Man Ichthys, Oannes, or Jonas—who could not be made flesh

It would appear that Kepler maintained it as positive fact that, at the moment of the "incarnation," all the planets were in conjunction in the sign Pisces, called by the Jewish Kabbalists the "constellation of the Messiah." Kepler averred:

It is in this constellation that the star of the Magi is to be found

This statement, quoted from Dr. Sepp<sup>1</sup> by De Mirville, emboldened the latter to remark that.

All the Jewish traditions, while announcing that star that many nations have seen [1],<sup>2</sup> further added that it would absorb the seventy planets that preside over the destinies of various nations on this globe.<sup>3</sup> "In virtue of those natural prophecies," says Dr. Sepp, "it was written in the stars of the firmament that the Messiah would be born in the lunar year of the world 4320, in that memorable year when the entire choir of the planets would be celebrating its jubilee."<sup>4</sup>

There was indeed a rage, at the beginning of the present century, for claiming restoration from the Hindus for an alleged robbery from the Jews of their "Gods," patriarchs, and chronology. It was Col. Wilford who recognized Noah in Prithu and in Satyavrata, Enos in Dhruva, and even Assur in Îshvara. After being residents for so many years in India, some Orientalists, at least, ought to have known that it was not the Brâhmans alone who had these figures, or who had divided their Great Age into four minor ages. Nevertheless writers in the *Asiatic Researches* indulged in the most extravagant speculations.

<sup>1</sup> *Vie de Notre Seigneur Jésus Christ*, 4, p. 9. Quoted from *Des Esprits*, Tome iv, p. 67.

<sup>2</sup> Whether many nations have seen that identical star, or not, we all know that the sepulchres of the "three Magi"—who rejoice in the quite Teutonic names of Kaspar and Melchior, Balthazar being the only exception, and the two having little of the Chaldean ring in them—are shown by the priests in the famous cathedral of Cologne, where the Magian bodies are not only supposed, but firmly believed to have been buried

<sup>3</sup> This tradition about the seventy planets that preside over the destinies of nations, is based on the Occult cosmogonical teaching that besides our own septenary chain of World-Planets, there are many more in the Solar System

<sup>4</sup> *Des Esprits*, Tome iv, p. 67.

S.A.Mackey, the Norwich "philosopher, astronomer, and shoemaker," argues very pertinently :

Christian theologians think it their duty to write against the long periods of Hindu chronology, and in them it may be pardonable but when a man of learning crucifies the names and the numbers of the ancients, and wrings and twists them into a form, which means something quite foreign to the intention of the ancient authors, but which, so mutilated, fits in with the *birth* of some maggot pre-existing in his own brain with so much exactness that he *pretends* to be amazed at the discovery, I cannot think him quite so pardonable<sup>1</sup>

This is intended to apply to Captain (later Colonel) Wilford, but the words may fit more than one of our modern Orientalists. Col. Wilford was the first to crown his unlucky speculations on Hindu chronology and the *Purânas* by connecting the 4,320,000,000 years with biblical chronology, by simply dwarfing the figures to 4,320 years—the supposed lunar year of the Nativity—and Dr. Sepp has simply plagiarized the idea from this gallant officer. Moreover, he persisted in seeing in them Jewish property, as well as Christian prophecy, thus accusing the Âryans of having helped themselves to Semitic revelation, whereas the reverse was the case. The Jews, moreover, need not be accused of directly despoiling the Hindus, of whose figures Ezra probably knew nothing. They had evidently and undeniably borrowed them from the Chaldeans, along with the Chaldean Gods. They turned the 432,000 years of the Chaldean Divine Dynasties<sup>2</sup> into 4,320 lunar years from the world's creation to the Christian era; as to the Babylonian and Egyptian Gods, they quietly and modestly transformed them into Patriarchs. Every nation was more or less guilty of such refashioning and adaptation of a Pantheon—once common to all—of universal into national and tribal Gods and Heroes. It was Jewish property in its new Pentateuchal garb, and no one of

<sup>1</sup> *The Mythological Astronomy of the Ancients Demonstrated*, Part the Second, or The Key of Urania pp 23-4 (1823)

<sup>2</sup> Every scholar is aware, of course, that the Chaldeans claimed the same digits (432), or 432,000, for their Divine Dynasties as the Hindus do for their Mahâyuga, namely 4,320,000. Therefore has Dr. Sepp, of Munich, undertaken to support Kepler and Wilford in their charge that the Hindus borrowed them from the Christians, and the Chaldeans from the Jews, who, it is claimed, expected their Messiah in the lunar year of the world 4,320 ! ! ! As these figures, according to ancient writers, were based by Berossus on the 120 Saroses—each of the divisions meaning six Neroses of 600 years each, making a sum total of 432,000 years—they would appear to be peremptory, remarks De Mirville (*Des Esprits*, Tome iii, p. 24). So the pious professor of Munich undertook to explain them in the correct way. He claims to have solved the riddle by showing that "the saros being composed, according to Pliny, of 222 synodical months, to wit, 18 years 6/10," the calculator naturally fell back on the figures "given by Suidas," who affirmed that the "120 saroses made 2,222 sacerdotal and cyclic years, which equalled 1,656 solar years" (*Vie de Notre Seigneur Jésus Christ*, II, p. 417. Quoted by De Mirville).

But Suidas said nothing of the kind, and, even supposing he had, he would prove little, if anything, by such a statement. The Neroses and Saroses were the same thorn in the side of *uninitiated* ancient writers as the apocalyptic 666 of the "Great Beast" is in that of the modern, and the former figures have found their unlucky Newtons, as have the latter.

the Israelites has ever forced it upon any other nation—least of all upon the European.

Without stopping to notice this very unscientific chronology more than is necessary, we may yet make a few remarks that may be found to the point. The 4,320 *lunar* years of the world—in the *Bible* the *solar* years are used—are not fanciful, as such, even if their application is quite erroneous, for they are only the distorted echo of the primitive Esoteric, and later of the Brâhmanical doctrine concerning the Yugas. A Day of Brahmâ equals 4,320,000,000 years, as also does a Night of Brahmâ, or the duration of Pralaya, after which a new SUN rises triumphantly over a new Manvantara, for the Septenary Chain it illuminates. The teaching had penetrated into Palestine and Europe centuries before the Christian era,<sup>1</sup> and was present in the minds of the Mosaic Jews, who based upon it their small Cycle, though it received full expression only through the Christian chronologers of the *Bible*, who adopted it, as also the 25th of December, the day on which all the *solar* Gods were said to have been incarnated. What wonder, then, that the Messiah was *made* to be born in “the *lunar* year of the world 4,320”? The “Sun of Righteousness and Salvation” had once more arisen and had dispelled the pralayaic darkness of Chaos and Non-being on the plane of our objective little Globe and Chain. Once the subject of the adoration was settled upon, it was easy to make the supposed events of his birth, life, and death, fit in with the Zodiacal exigencies and the old traditions, though they had to be somewhat remodelled for the occasion.

Thus what Kepler said, as a great Astronomer, becomes comprehensible. He recognized the grand and universal importance of all such planetary conjunctions, “each of which”—as he has well said—“is a *climacteric* year of Humanity”<sup>2</sup> The rare conjunction of Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars has its significance and importance on account of its *certain great results*, in India and China as much as it has in Europe, for the respective Mystics of these countries. And it is certainly now no better than a mere assumption to maintain that Nature had only Christ in view, in building her (to the profane) fantastic and meaningless constellations. If it is claimed that it was no hazard that could lead the archaic architects of the Zodiac, thousands of years ago,

<sup>1</sup> See *Isis Unveiled*, II, p. 132

<sup>2</sup> The reader has to bear in mind that the phrase “climacteric year” has more than the usual significance, when used by Occultists and Mystics. It is not only a critical period, during which some great change is periodically expected, whether in human or cosmic constitution, but it likewise pertains to universal spiritual changes. The Europeans called every 63rd year the “grand climacteric,” and perhaps justly supposed those years to be the years produced by multiplying 7 into the odd numbers 3, 5, 7 and 9. But 7 is the real scale of Nature, in Occultism, and 7 has to be multiplied in quite a different way and method than is as yet known to European nations.

to mark the figure of Taurus with the asterisk *a*, with no better or more valid proof of it being *prophetic* of the Verbum or Christ than that the *aleph* of Taurus means the "ONE," and the "FIRST," and that Christ was also the *alpha* or the "ONE," then this "proof" may be shown to be strangely invalidated in more than one way. To begin with, the Zodiac existed before the Christian era, at all events, further, all the Sun-Gods—Osiris, for instance—had been mystically connected with the constellation Taurus and were all called by their respective votaries the "First." Further, the compilers of the mystical epithets given to the Christian Saviour were all more or less acquainted with the significance of the Zodiacal signs, and it is easier to suppose that they should have arranged their claims so as to match the mystic signs, than that the latter should have shone as a prophecy for one portion of humanity, for millions of years, taking no heed of the numberless generations that had gone before, and of those that were to be born hereafter

We are told :

It is not simple chance that, in certain spheres, has placed on a throne the head of this bull [Taurus] trying to push back a Dragon with the *ansated cross*, we should know that this constellation of Taurus was called "*the great city of God and the mother of revelations*," and also "*the interpreter of the divine voice*," the Apis Pacis of Hermontis, in Egypt, which [as the patristic fathers would assure the world] is said to have proffered oracles that related to the birth of the Saviour<sup>1</sup>

To this theological assumption there are several answers. Firstly, the *ansated Egyptian cross*, or Tau, the Jaina cross, or Svastika, and the Christian cross, have all the same meaning. Secondly, no peoples or nations except the Christians gave the significance to the Dragon that is given to it now. The Serpent was the symbol of WISDOM, and the Bull, Taurus, the symbol of physical or terrestrial *generation*. Thus the Bull, pushing off the Dragon, or *spiritual Divine Wisdom*, with the Tau, or Cross—which is esoterically "*the foundation and framework of all construction*"—would have an entirely *phallic*, physiological meaning, had it not had yet another significance unknown to our Biblical scholars and symbologists. At any rate, it has no special reference to the *Verbum* of St. John, except, perhaps, in a general sense. The Taurus—which, by the way, is no *lamb*, but a bull—was sacred in every Cosmogony, with the Hindus as with the Zoroastrians, with the Chaldees as with the Egyptians. So much, every schoolboy knows.

It may perhaps help to refresh the memory of our Theosophists if we refer them to what was said of the Virgin and the Dragon, and the universality of periodical births and re-births of World-Saviours—Solar Gods—in *Isis Unveiled*,<sup>2</sup> with regard to certain passages in *Revelation*

<sup>1</sup> *Des Esprits*, Tome iv, p. 61

<sup>2</sup> Vol II, p. 490



In 1853, the savant known as Erard-Mollien read before the Institute of France a paper tending to prove the antiquity of the Indian Zodiac, in the signs of which were found the root and philosophy of all the most important religious festivals of that country ; the lecturer tried to demonstrate that the origin of these religious ceremonies goes back into the night of time to at least 3,000 B C . The Zodiac of the Hindus, he thought, was long anterior to the Zodiac of the Greeks, and differed from it much in some particulars. In it one sees the *Dragon on a Tree*, at the foot of which the Virgin, *Kanyâ-Durgâ*, one of the most ancient Goddesses, is placed on a Lion dragging after it the solar car. He said .

This is the reason why this Virgin Durgâ is not the simple *memento* of an astronomical fact, but verily the most ancient divinity of the Indian Olympus . She is evidently the same whose return was announced in all the Sibylline books—the source of the inspiration of Virgil—an epoch of universal renovation . And why, since the months are still named after this Indian Zodiac, by the Malayâlam-speaking people [of southern India], should that people have abandoned it to take that of the Greeks ? Everything proves, on the contrary, that these zodiacal figures were transmitted to the Greeks by the Chaldeans, who got them from the Brâhmans <sup>1</sup>

But all this is very poor testimony. Let us, however, remember also that which was said and accepted by the contemporaries of Volney, who remarks that as Aries was in its fifteenth degree 1,447 B C , it follows that the first degree of Libra could not have coincided with the vernal equinox later than 15,194 years B C , if we add to this, he argues, the 1,790 years that have passed since the birth of Christ, it appears that 16,984 years must have elapsed since the origin of the Zodiac.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Schlegel, moreover, in his *Uranographie Chinoise*, assigns to the Chinese Astronomical Sphere an antiquity of 18,000 years.<sup>3</sup>

Nevertheless, as opinions quoted without adequate proofs are of little avail, it may be more useful to turn to scientific evidence. M. Bailly, the famous French Astronomer of the last century, Member of the Academy, etc., asserts that the Hindu systems of Astronomy are by far the oldest, and that from them the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and even the Jews derived their knowledge. In support of these views he says .

The astronomers who preceded the epoch 1491 are, first, the Alexandrian Greeks , Hipparchus, who flourished 125 years before our era, and Ptolemy, 260 years after Hipparchus . Following these were the Arabs, who revived the study of astronomy in the ninth century . These were succeeded by the Persians and the Tartars, to whom we owe the tables of Nassireddin in 1269, and those of Ulug-beg in 1437 . Such is the succession of events in Asia as known prior to the Indian epoch 1491 . What, then, is

<sup>1</sup> See *Recueil de l' Académie des Inscriptions*, 1853, quoted in *Des Esprits*, Tome iv, p. 62

<sup>2</sup> *Ruins of Empires*, p. 360.

<sup>3</sup> See pp. 54, 196, et seq.

an epoch? It is the observation of the longitude of a star at a given moment, the place in the sky where it was seen, and which serves as a point of reference, a starting-point from which to calculate both the past and future positions of the star from its observed motion. But an epoch is useless unless the motion of the star has been determined. A people, new to science and obliged to borrow a foreign astronomy, finds no difficulty in fixing an epoch, since the only observation needed is one which can be made at any moment. But what it needs above all, what it is obliged to borrow, are those elements which depend on accurate determination, and which require continuous observation, above all, those motions which depend on time, and which can only be accurately determined by centuries of observation. These motions, then, must be borrowed from a nation which has made such observations, and has behind it the labours of centuries. We conclude, therefore, that a new people will not borrow the epochs of an ancient one, without also borrowing from them the "average motions." Starting from this principle we shall find that the Hindu epochs 1491 and 3102 could not have been derived from those of either Ptolemy or Ulug-beg.

There remains the supposition that the Hindus, comparing their observations in 1491 with those previously made by Ulug-beg and Ptolemy, used the intervals between these observations to determine the average motions. The date of Ulug-beg is too recent for such a determination, while those of Ptolemy and Hipparchus were barely remote enough. But if the Hindu motions had been determined from these comparisons, the epochs would be connected together. Starting from the epochs of Ulug-beg and Ptolemy we should arrive at all those of the Hindus. Hence foreign epochs were either unknown or useless to the Hindus.<sup>1</sup>

We may add to this another important consideration. When a nation is obliged to borrow from its neighbours the methods or the average motions of its astronomical tables, it has even greater need to borrow, besides these, the knowledge of the inequalities of the motions of the heavenly bodies, the motions of the apogee, of the nodes, and of the inclination of the ecliptic, in short, all those elements the determination of which requires the art of observing, some instrumental appliances, and great industry. All these astronomical elements, differing more or less with the Greeks of Alexandria, the Arabs, the Persians and the Tartars, exhibit no resemblance whatever with those of the Hindus. The latter, therefore, borrowed nothing from their neighbours.

If the Hindus did not borrow their epoch, they must have possessed a real one of their own, based on their own observations, and this must be either the epoch of the year 1491 after, or that of the year 3102 before our era, the latter preceding by 4,592 years the epoch 1491. We have to choose between these two epochs and to decide which of them is based on observation. But before starting the arguments which can and must decide the question, we may be permitted to make a few remarks to those who may be inclined to believe that it is modern observations and calculations which have enabled the Hindus to determine the past positions of the heavenly bodies. It is far from easy to determine the celestial movements with sufficient accuracy to ascend the stream of time for 4,592 years, and to describe the phenomena which must have occurred at that period. We possess to-day excellent instruments, exact observations have been made for some two or three centuries, which already permit us to calculate with considerable accuracy the average motions of the planets, we have the observations of the Chaldeans, of Hipparchus and of Ptolemy, which, owing to their remoteness from the present time, permit us to fix these motions with greater

<sup>1</sup> For a detailed scientific proof of this conclusion, see page 121 of M. Bailly's work, where the subject is discussed technically.

certainty Still we cannot undertake to represent with invariable accuracy the observations throughout the long period intervening between the Chaldeans and ourselves, and still less can we undertake to determine with exactitude events occurring 4,592 years before our day Cassini and Maier have each determined the secular motion of the moon, and they differ by 3m. 43s This difference would give rise in forty-six centuries to an uncertainty of nearly three degrees in the moon's place Doubtless one of these determinations is more accurate than the other; and it is for observations of very great antiquity to decide between them But in very remote periods, where observations are lacking, it follows that we are uncertain as to the phenomena. How, then, could the Hindus have calculated back from the year 1491 A D to the year 3102, before our era, if they were only recent students of Astronomy?

The Orientals have never been what we are However high an opinion of their knowledge we may form from the examination of their Astronomy, we cannot suppose them ever to have possessed that great array of instruments which distinguishes our modern observatories, and which is the product of simultaneous progress in various arts, nor could they have possessed that genius for discovery, which has hitherto seemed to belong exclusively to Europe, and which, supplying the place of time, causes the rapid progress of science and of human intelligence If the Asiatics have been powerful, learned and wise, it is power and time which have produced their merit and success of all kinds Power has founded or destroyed their empires, now it has erected edifices imposing by their bulk, now it has reduced them to venerable ruins, and while these vicissitudes alternated with each other, patience accumulated knowledge, and prolonged experience produced wisdom It is the antiquity of the nations of the East which has erected their scientific fame

If the Hindus possessed in 1491 a knowledge of the heavenly motions sufficiently accurate to enable them to calculate backwards for 4592 years, it follows that they could only have obtained this knowledge from very ancient observations. To grant them such knowledge, while refusing them the observations from which it is derived, is to suppose an impossibility, it would be equivalent to assuming that at the outset of their career they had already reaped the harvest of time and experience While on the other hand, if their epoch of 3102 is assumed to be real, it would follow that the Hindus had simply kept pace with successive centuries down to the year 1491 of our era Thus, time itself was their teacher, they knew the motions of the heavenly bodies during these periods, because they had seen them, and the duration of the Hindu people on earth is the cause of the fidelity of its records and the accuracy of its calculations

It would seem that the problem as to which of the two epochs of 3102 and 1491 is the real one ought to be solved by one consideration, viz., that the ancients in general, and particularly the Hindus, as we may see by the arrangement of their Tables, calculated, and therefore observed, eclipses only Now, there was no eclipse of the sun at the moment of the epoch 1491, and no eclipse of the moon either fourteen days before or after that moment Therefore the epoch 1491 is not based on an observation As regards the epoch 3102, the Brâhmans of Tirvaloor place it at sunrise on February 18th The sun was then in the first point of the Zodiac according to its true longitude The other Tables show that at the preceding midnight the moon was in the same place, but according to its average longitude The Brâhmans tell us also that this first point, the origin of their Zodiac, was, in the year 3102, 54 degrees behind the equinox It follows that the origin—the first point of their Zodiac—was therefore in the sixth degree of Aquarius

There occurred, therefore, about this time and place an average conjunction; and indeed this conjunction is given in our best Tables La Caille's for the sun and

Maier's for the moon. There was no eclipse of the sun, the moon being too distant from her node; but fourteen days later, the moon, having approached the node, must have been eclipsed. Maier's tables, used without correction for acceleration, give this eclipse; but they place it during the day when it could not have been observed in India. Cassini's tables give it as occurring at night, which shows that Maier's motions are too rapid for distant centuries, when the acceleration is not allowed for; and which also proves that in spite of the improvement of our knowledge we can still be uncertain as to the actual aspect of the heavens in past times.

Therefore we believe that, as between the two Hindu epochs, the real one is the year 3102, because it was accompanied by an eclipse which could be observed, and which must have served to determine it. This is a first proof of the truth of the longitude assigned by the Hindus to the sun and the moon at this instant; and this proof would perhaps be sufficient, were it not that this ancient determination becomes of the greatest importance for the verification of the motions of these bodies, and must therefore be borne out by every possible proof of its authenticity.

We notice, 1st, that the Hindus seem to have combined two epochs together into the year 3102. The Tirvaloor Brâhmans reckon primarily from the first moment of the Kali Yuga, but they have a second epoch placed 2d 3h 32m 30s later. The latter is the true astronomical epoch, while the former seems to be a civil era. But if this epoch of the Kali Yuga had no reality, and was the mere result of a calculation, why should it be thus divided? Their calculated astronomical epoch would have become that of the Kali Yuga, which would have been placed at the conjunction of the sun and the moon, as is the case with the epochs of the three other Tables. They must have had some reason for distinguishing between the two, and this reason can only be due to the circumstances and the time of the epoch, which therefore could not be the result of calculation. This is not all, starting from the solar epoch determined by the rising of the sun on February 18th, 3102, and tracing back events 2d 3h 32m 30s, we come to 2h 27m 30s a.m. of February 16th, which is the instant of the beginning of Kali Yuga. It is curious that this age has not been made to commence at one of the four great divisions of the day. It might be suspected that the epoch should be midnight, and that the 2h 27m 30s are a meridian correction. But whatever may have been the reason for fixing on this moment, it is plain that were this epoch the result of calculation, it would have been just as easy to carry it back to midnight, so as to make the epoch correspond to one of the chief divisions of the day, instead of placing it at a moment fixed by the fraction of a day.

2nd. The Hindus assert that at the first moment of Kali Yuga there was a conjunction of all the planets, and their Tables show this conjunction while ours indicate that it might actually have occurred. Jupiter and Mercury were in exactly the same degree of the ecliptic, Mars being  $8^{\circ}$  and Saturn  $17^{\circ}$  distant from it. It follows that about this time, or some fifteen days after the commencement of Kali Yuga, and as the sun advanced in the Zodiac, the Hindus saw four planets emerge successively from the Sun's rays, first Saturn, then Mars, then Jupiter and Mercury, and these planets appeared united in a somewhat small space. Although Venus was not among them, the taste for the marvellous caused it to be called a general conjunction of all the planets. The testimony of the Brâhmans here coincides with that of our Tables; and this evidence, the result of a tradition, must be founded on actual observation.

3rd. We may remark that this phenomenon was visible about a fortnight after the epoch, and exactly at the time when the eclipse of the moon must have been observed, which served to fix the epoch. The two observations mutually confirm each other, and whoever made the one must have made the other also.

4th. We may believe also that the Hindus made at the same time a determination of the place of the moon's node, this seems indicated by their calculation. They give the longitude of this point of the lunar orbit for the time of their epoch, and to this they add as a constant 40m, which is the node's motion in 12d 14h. It is as if they stated that this determination was made thirteen days after their epoch, and that to make it correspond to that epoch, we must add the 40m through which the node has retrograded in the interval. This observation is, therefore, of the same date as that of the lunar eclipse, thus giving three observations, which are mutually confirmatory.

5th. It appears from the description of the Hindu Zodiac given by M C Gentil, that on it the places of the stars named the Eye of Taurus and the Wheat-ear of Virgo, can be determined for the commencement of the Kali Yuga. Now, comparing these places with the actual positions, reduced by our precession of the equinoxes to the moment in question, we see that the point of origin of the Hindu Zodiac must lie between the fifth and sixth degree of Aquarius.<sup>1</sup> The Brāhmans, therefore, were right in placing it in the sixth degree of that sign, the more so since this small difference may be due to the proper motion of the stars, which is unknown. Thus it was yet another observation which guided the Hindus in this fairly accurate determination of the first point of their movable Zodiac.

It does not seem possible to doubt the existence in antiquity of observations of this date. The Persians say that four beautiful stars were placed as guardians at the four corners of the world. Now it so happens that at the commencement of Kali Yuga, 3,000 or 3,100 years before our era, the Eye of the Bull and the Heart of the Scorpion were exactly at the equinoctial points, while the Heart of the Lion and the Southern Fish were pretty near the solstitial points. An observation of the rising of the Pleiades in the evening, seven days before the autumnal equinox, also belongs to the year 3000 before our era. This and similar observations are collected in Ptolemy's calendars, though he does not give their authors, and these, which are older than those of the Chaldeans, may well be the work of the Hindus. They are well acquainted with the constellation of the Pleiades, and while we call it vulgarly the "Poussinière," they name it *Pillālu-kodī*<sup>2</sup>—the "Hen and chickens." This name has, therefore, passed from people to people, and comes to us from the most ancient nations of Asia. We see that the Hindus must have observed the rising of the Pleiades, and have made use of it to regulate their years and their months, for this constellation is also called *Kṛttikā*. Now they have a month of the same name, and this coincidence can only be due to the fact that this month was announced by the rising or setting of the constellation in question.

But what is even more decisive as showing that the Hindus observed the stars, and in the same way that we do, marking their position by their longitude, is a fact mentioned by Augustinus Riccius that, according to observations attributed to Hermes, and made 1,985 years before Ptolemy, the brilliant star in the Lyre and that in the heart of the Hydra were each seven degrees in advance of their respective positions as determined by Ptolemy. This determination seems very extraordinary. The stars advance regularly with respect to the equinox; and Ptolemy ought to have found the longitudes 28 degrees in excess of what they were 1,985 years before his time. Besides, there is a remarkable peculiarity about this fact, the same error or difference being found in the positions of both stars, therefore the error was due to some cause affecting both stars equally. It was to explain this peculiarity that the Arab Thebith imagined the stars to have an oscillatory movement, causing them to advance and recede alternately. This hypothesis was easily disproved, but the observations attributed to

<sup>1</sup> Libra, in the 1888 edition, p, 663.

<sup>2</sup> [A Tamil word.]

Hermes remained unexplained. Their explanation, however, is found in Hindu Astronomy. At the date fixed for these observations, 1,985 years before Ptolemy, the first point of the Hindu Zodiac was 35 degrees in advance of the equinox; therefore the longitudes reckoned for this point are 35 degrees in excess of those reckoned from the equinox. But after the lapse of 1,985 years the stars would have advanced 28 degrees, and there would remain a difference of only 7 degrees between the longitudes of Hermes and those of Ptolemy, and the difference would be the same for the two stars, since it is due to the difference between the starting-points of the Hindu Zodiac and that of Ptolemy, which reckons from the equinox. This explanation is so simple and natural that it must be true. We do not know whether Hermes, so celebrated in antiquity, was a Hindu, but we see that the observations attributed to him are reckoned in the Hindu manner, and we conclude that they were made by the Hindus, who, therefore, were able to make all the observations we have enumerated, and which we find noted in their Tables.

6th The observation of the year 3102, which seems to have fixed their epoch, was not a difficult one. We see that the Hindus, having once determined the moon's daily motion of  $13^{\circ} 10' 35''$ , made use of it to divide the Zodiac into 27 constellations related to the period of the moon, which takes about 27 days to describe it.

It was by this method that they determined the positions of the stars in this Zodiac; it was thus they found that a certain star of the Lyre was in  $8^{\circ} 24'$ , the Heart of the Hydra in  $4^{\circ} 7'$ , longitudes which are ascribed to Hermes, but which are calculated on the Hindu Zodiac. Similarly, they discovered that the Wheat-ear of Virgo forms the commencement of their fifteenth constellation, and the Eye of Taurus the end of the fourth, these stars being the one in  $6^{\circ} 6' 40''$ , the other in  $1^{\circ} 23' 20''$  of the Hindu Zodiac. This being so, the eclipse of the moon which occurred fifteen days after the Kali Yuga epoch, took place at a point between the Wheat-ear of Virgo and the star  $\theta$  of the same constellation. These stars are very approximately a constellation apart, the one beginning the fifteenth, the other the sixteenth. Thus it would not be difficult to determine the moon's place by measuring her distance from one of these stars, from these they deduced the position of the sun, which is opposite to the moon, and then, knowing their average motions, they calculated that the moon was at the first point of the Zodiac according to her average longitude at midnight on the 17th-18th February of the year 3102 before our era, and that the sun occupied the same place twelve hours later according to his true longitude; an event which fixes the commencement of the Hindu year.

7th The Hindus state that 20,400 years before the age of Kali Yuga, the first point of their Zodiac coincided with the vernal equinox, and that the sun and moon were in conjunction there. This epoch is obviously fictitious,<sup>1</sup> but we may enquire from what point, from what epoch, the Hindus set out in establishing it. Taking the Hindu values for the revolution of the sun and moon, viz, 365d 6h 12m. 30s., and 27d 7h. 43m 13s., we have—

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 20,400 \text{ revolutions of the sun} & = & 7,451,277\text{d } 2\text{h} \\ 272,724 & ,, & ,, \text{ moon} = 7,451,277\text{d. } 7\text{h.} \end{array}$$

Such is the result obtained by starting from the Kali Yuga epoch, and the assertion of the Hindus, that there was a conjunction at the time stated, is founded on their Tables, but if, using the same elements, we start from the era of the year 1491, or from another placed in the year 1282, of which we shall speak later, there will always be a difference of almost one or two days. It is both just and natural, in verifying the Hindu calculations, to take those among their elements which give the same result as they had themselves arrived at, and to set out from that one among their epochs which

<sup>1</sup> Why it should be "fictitious" can never be made plain by European Scientists

enables us to arrive at the fictitious epoch in question. Hence, since to make this calculation they must have set out from their real epoch, the one which was founded on an observation and not from any of those which were derived by this very calculation from the former, it follows that their real epoch was that of the Year 3102 before our era.

8th The Tirvaloor Brâhmans give the moon's motion as  $7^{\circ} 20' 0'' 7'''^1$  on the movable Zodiac, and as  $9^{\circ} 7' 45' 1''$  as referred to the equinox in a great period of 1,600,984 days, or 4,386 years and 94 days. We believe this motion to have been determined by observation; and we must state at the outset that this period is of an extent which renders it but ill suited to the calculation of the mean motions.

In their astronomical calculations the Hindus make use of periods of 248, 3,031, and 12,372 days, but, apart from the fact that these periods, though much too short, do not present the inconvenience of the former, they contain an exact number of revolutions of the moon referred to its apogee. They are in reality mean motions. The great period of 1,600,984 days is not a sum of accumulated revolutions: there is no reason why it should contain 1,600,984 rather than 1,600,985 days. It would seem that observation alone must have fixed the number of days and marked the beginning and end of the period. This period ends on the 21st of May, 1282 of our era, at 5h 15m 30s at Benares. The moon was then in apogee, according to the Hindus, and her longitude was

		7 <sup>h</sup> 13 <sup>m</sup> 45 <sup>s</sup> 1 <sup>''</sup>
Maier gives the longitude as	...	7 13 53 48
And places the apogee at	..	7 14 6 54

The determination of the moon's place by the Brâhmans thus differs only by nine minutes from ours, and that of the apogee by twenty-two minutes, and it is very evident that they could only have obtained this agreement with our best Tables and this exactitude in the celestial positions by observation. If then, observation fixed the end of this period, there is every reason to believe that it determined its commencement. But then this motion, determined directly, and from nature, would of necessity be in close agreement with the true motions of the heavenly bodies.

And in fact the Hindu motion during this long period of 4,883 years, does not differ by a minute from that of Cassini, and agrees equally with that of Maier. Thus two peoples, the Hindus and the Europeans, placed at the two extremities of the world, and perhaps as distant by their institutions, have obtained precisely the same results as regards the moon's motions, and an agreement which would be inconceivable, if it were not based on the observation and mutual imitation of nature. We must remark that the four Tables of the Hindus are all copies of the same Astronomy. It cannot be denied that the Siamese Tables existed in 1687, when they were brought from India by M. de la Loubère. At that time the tables of Cassini and Maier were not in existence, and thus the Hindus were already in possession of the exact motion contained in these Tables, while we did not yet possess it.<sup>2</sup> It must, therefore, be admitted that the

<sup>1</sup>  $7^{\circ} 20' 8''$ , in the 1888 edition, p. 666.

<sup>2</sup> "The following is an answer to those men of science who might suspect that our astronomy was carried to India and communicated to the Hindus by our Missionaries. 1st Hindu astronomy has its own peculiar forms, characterized by their originality, if it had been our astronomy translated, great skill and knowledge would have been needed to disguise the theft. 2nd When adopting the mean movement of the moon, they would have adopted also the inclination of the ecliptic, the equation of the sun's centre, the length of the year, these elements differ completely from ours, and are remarkably accurate as applying to the epoch of 3102, while they would be exceedingly erroneous if they had been calculated for last century. 3rd. Finally, our missionaries could not have communicated to the Hindus in 1687 the tables of Cassini, which were not then in existence, they could have known only the mean motions of Tycho, Riccioli, Copernicus, Bouillaud, Kepler, Longomontanus, and those of the

accuracy of this Hindu motion is the point of observation. It is exact throughout this period of 4,383 years, because it was taken from the sky itself; and if observation determined its close, it fixed its commencement also. It is the longest period which has been observed and of which the recollection is preserved in the annals of Astronomy. It has its origin in the epoch of the year 3102 B.C., and it is a demonstrative proof of the reality of that epoch.<sup>1</sup>

Bailly is referred to at such length, as he is one of the few scientific men who have tried to do full justice to the Astronomy of the Âryans. From John Bentley down to Burgess' *Sûrya-Siddhânta*, not one Astronomer has been fair enough to the most learned people of Antiquity. However distorted and misunderstood the Hindu Symbology may be, no Occultist can fail to do it justice once that he knows something of the Secret Sciences; nor will he turn away from their metaphysical and mystical interpretation of the Zodiac, even though the whole Pleiades of Royal Astronomical Societies rise in arms against their mathematical rendering of it. The descent and reascent of the Monad or Soul cannot be disconnected from the Zodiacal signs, and it looks more natural, in the sense of the fitness of things, to believe in a mysterious sympathy between the metaphysical Soul and the bright constellations, and in the influence of the latter on the former, than in the absurd notion that the creators of Heaven and Earth have placed in Heaven the types of twelve vicious Jews. And if, as the author of *The Gnostics and their Remains* asserts, the aim of all the Gnostic schools and the later Platonists

was to accommodate the old faith to the influence of Buddhistic theosophy, the very essence of which was that the innumerable gods of the Hindu mythology were but names for the Energies of the First Triad in its successive Avatârs or manifestations unto man,

whither can we better turn to trace these Theosophic ideas to their very root, than to the old Indian wisdom? We say again: Archaic Occultism would

tables of Alphonso. I will now give a tabular view of these mean motions for 4,383 years and 94 days (Riccioli, *Almag* I, p. 255)

Table	Mean Motion				Difference from Hindû			
	D.	H.	M.	S.	H.	M.	S.	
Alphonso . . . . .	9	7	2	47	—	0	42	14
Copernicus . . . . .	9	6	2	13	—	1	42	48
Tycho . . . . .	9	7	54	40	+	0	9	39
Kepler . . . . .	9	6	57	35	—	0	47	26
Longomontanus . . . . .	9	7	2	13	—	0	42	48
Bouillaud . . . . .	9	6	48	8	—	0	58	53
Riccioli . . . . .	9	7	53	57	+	0	8	56
Cassini . . . . .	9	7	44	11	—	0	0	50
India . . . . .	9	7	45	1				

"None of these mean motions, except Cassini's, agrees with that of the Hindus, who therefore, did not borrow their mean motions, since their figures agree only with those of Cassini, whose tables were not in existence in 1687. This mean motion of the moon belongs, therefore, to the Hindus, who could only have obtained it by observation."—*Ibid.*, note, pp xxxvi, xxxvii

<sup>1</sup> Bailly's *Traité de l'Astronomie Indienne et Orientale*, pp xx, et seq (1787)



remain incomprehensible to all, if it were to be rendered otherwise than through the more familiar channels of Buddhism and Hinduism. For the former is the emanation of the latter; and both are children of one mother—ancient Lemuro-Atlantean Wisdom

## SECTION 17

### SUMMARY OF THE POSITION

THE reader has had the whole case presented to him from both sides, and it remains with him to decide whether its summary stands in our favour or not. If there were such a thing as a void, a *vacuum* in Nature, one ought to find it produced, according to a physical law, in the minds of helpless admirers of the "lights" of Science, who pass their time in mutually destroying their teachings. If ever the theory that "two lights make darkness" found its application it is in this case, where one-half of the "lights" imposes its forces and "modes of motion" on the belief of the faithful, and the other half opposes the very existence of the same "Ether, Matter, Energy"—the sacred hypostatical trinity, the three principles of the truly *unknown* God of Science, called by them PHYSICAL NATURE !

Theology is taken to task and ridiculed for believing in the union of three persons in one Godhead—one God as to substance, three persons as to individuality, and we are laughed at for our belief in unproved and unprovable doctrines, in Angels and Devils, Gods and Spirits. And, indeed, that which made the Scientists win the day over Theology in the Great "Conflict between Religion and Science," was precisely the argument that neither the identity of that substance, nor the triple individuality claimed—after having been conceived, invented, and worked out in the depths of Theological Consciousness—could be proved to exist by any scientific inductive process of reasoning, least of all by the evidence of our senses. Religion must perish, it is said, because it teaches *mysteries*. *Mystery is the negation of Common Sense*, and Science repels it. According to Prof. Tyndall, Metaphysics is "fiction," like poetry. The man of Science "takes nothing on trust"; rejects everything "that is not proven to him," while the Theologian accepts "everything on blind faith." The Theosophist and the Occultist, who take nothing on trust, not even exact Science, the Spiritualist who denies dogma but believes in Spirits and in *invisible but potent influences*, all share in the same

contempt. Very well, then, what we have to do now, is to examine for the last time whether exact Science does not act precisely in the same way as do Theosophy, Spiritualism, and Theology

In a work by Mr. S. Laing, considered a standard book on Science, *Modern Science and Modern Thought*, the author of which, according to the laudatory review of the *Times*, "exhibits with much power and effect the immense discoveries of Science, and its numerous victories over old opinions, whenever they have the rashness to challenge conclusions with it," we read as follows:

What is the material universe composed of? Ether, Matter, and Energy

We stop to ask, What is Ether? And Mr. Laing answers in the name of Science:

Ether is not actually known to us by any test of which the senses can take cognizance, but is a sort of mathematical substance which we are compelled to assume in order to account for the phenomena of light and heat.<sup>1</sup>

And what is Matter? Do you know more about it than you do about the "hypothetical" agent, Ether?

In perfect strictness, it is true that chemical investigations can tell us . . . nothing directly of the composition of living matter, and it is also in strictness true, that we know nothing about the compositions of any [material] body whatever as it is.<sup>2</sup>

And Energy? Surely you can define the third person of the Trinity of your Material Universe? We can take the answer from any book on Physics:

Energy is that which is only known to us by its effects

Pray explain, for this is rather hazy.

[In mechanics there is actual and potential energy: work actually performed, and the capacity for performing it. As to the nature of molecular Energy or Forces], the various phenomena which bodies present show that their molecules are under the influence of two contrary forces, one of which tends to bring them together, and the other to separate them. The first force is called *molecular attraction*. The second force is due to the *vis viva*, or moving force.<sup>3</sup>

Just so. It is the nature of this *moving force*, of this *vis viva*, that we want to know. What is it?

"WE DO NOT KNOW!" is the invariable answer. "It is an empty shadow of my imagination," explains Prof. Huxley in his *Physical Basis of Life*.

Thus the whole structure of modern Science is built on a kind of "mathematical abstraction," on a Protean "Substance which eludes the senses" (Dubois Reymond), and on effects, the shadowy and illusive will-o'-the-wisps of

<sup>1</sup> Ch. III, "On Matter," p. 51

<sup>2</sup> *Lecture on Protoplasm*, by Prof. Huxley.

<sup>3</sup> Ganot's *Physics*, p. 73, Atkinson's Translation

a *something* entirely unknown to, and beyond the reach of, Science. "Self-moving" Atoms! Self-moving Suns, Planets, and Stars! But who, then, or what are they all, if they are self-endowed with motion? Why then should you, Physicists, laugh at and deride our "Self-moving Archæus"? Mystery is rejected and scorned by Science, and as Father Felix has truly said:

She cannot escape it    Mystery is the fatality of Science.

The language of the French preacher is ours, and we quote it in *Isis Unveiled*. Who—he asks—who of you, men of Science:

Has been able to penetrate the secret of the formation of a body, the generation of a single atom? What is there, I will not say at the centre of a sun, but at the centre of an atom? Who has sounded to the bottom the abyss in a grain of sand? The grain of sand, gentlemen, has been studied four thousand years by science, she has turned and returned it, she divides it and subdivides it, she torments it with her experiments, she vexes it with her questions to snatch from it the final word as to its secret constitution, she asks it, with an insatiable curiosity. "Shall I divide thee infinitesimally?" Then suspended over this abyss, science hesitates, she stumbles, she feels dazzled, she becomes dizzy, and in despair says "I DO NOT KNOW"

But if you are so fatally ignorant of the genesis and hidden nature of a grain of sand, how should you have an intuition as to the generation of a single living being? Whence in the living being does life come? Where does it commence? What is the life principle?<sup>1</sup>

Do the men of Science deny all these charges? By no means: for here is a confession of Tyndall, which shows how powerless is Science, even over the world of Matter.

The first marshalling of the atoms, on which all subsequent action depends, baffles a keener power than that of the microscope. Through pure excess of complexity, and long before observation can have any voice in the matter, the most highly trained intellect, the most refined and disciplined imagination, retires in bewilderment from the contemplation of the problem. We are struck dumb by an astonishment which no microscope can relieve, doubting not only the power of our instrument, but even whether we ourselves possess the intellectual elements which will ever enable us to grapple with the ultimate structural energies of nature

How little is known of the material Universe, indeed, has now been suspected for years, on the very admissions of these men of Science themselves. And now there are some Materialists who would even make away with Ether—or whatever Science calls the infinite Substance, the noumenon of which the Buddhists call Svabhâvat—as well as with Atoms, too dangerous both on account of their ancient philosophical, and their present Christian and theological, associations. From the earliest Philosophers, whose records passed to posterity, down to our present age—which, if it denies Invisible Beings in Space, can never be so insane as to deny a Plenum of some sort—the Fulness of the Universe has been an accepted belief. And what it was

<sup>1</sup> See Vol I, pp 338-9, quoted from *Le Mystère et la Science*, Conférences, Père Félix de Notre Dame.

said to contain, one learns from Hermes Trismegistus (in Dr. Anna Kingsford's able rendering), who is made to say :

Concerning the Void my judgment is that it does not exist, that it never has existed, and that it never will exist. For all the various parts of the universe are filled, as the earth also is complete and full of bodies, differing in quality and in form, having their species and their magnitude, one larger, one smaller, one solid, one tenuous. The larger are easily perceived, the smaller are difficult to apprehend, or altogether invisible. We know only of their existence by the sensation of feeling, wherefore many persons deny such entities to be bodies, and regard them as simply spaces,<sup>1</sup> but it is impossible there should be such spaces. For if indeed there should be anything outside the universe then it would be a space occupied by intelligible beings analogous to its [the universe's] Divinity. I speak of the geni, for I hold they dwell with us, and of the heroes who dwell above us, between the earth and the higher airs, wherein are neither clouds nor any tempest.<sup>2</sup>

And we "hold" it too. Only, as already remarked, no Eastern Initiate would speak of spheres "above us, between the earth and the airs," even the highest, as there is no such division or measurement in Occult speech, no above, as no below, but an eternal *within*, *within two other within's*, or the planes of subjectivity merging gradually into that of terrestrial objectivity—this being for *man* the last one, his own plane. This necessary explanation may be closed here by giving, in the words of Hermes, the belief on this particular point of the whole world of Mystics :

There are many orders of the Gods, and in all there is an intelligible part. It is not to be supposed they do not come within the range of our senses, on the contrary, we perceive them, better even than those which are called visible. There are, then, Gods, superior to all appearances, after them come the Gods whose principle is spiritual, these Gods being sensible, in conformity with their double origin, manifest all things by a sensible nature, each of them illuminating his works one by another.<sup>3</sup> The supreme Being of heaven, or of all that is comprehended under this name, is Zeus, for it is by heaven that Zeus gives life to all things. The supreme Being of the sun is light, for it is by the disk of the sun that we receive the benefit of the light. The thirty-six horoscopes of the fixed stars have for supreme Being, or prince, him whose name is *Pantomorphos*, or having all forms, because he gives divine forms to divers types. The seven planets, or wandering spheres, have for supreme Spirits Fortune and Destiny, who uphold the eternal stability of the laws of Nature throughout incessant transformation and perpetual agitation. The ether is the instrument or medium by which all is produced.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Behold the work of Cycles and their periodical return! Those who denied such "Entities" (Forces) to be bodies, and called them "Spaces," were the prototypes of our modern "science-struck" public, and their official teachers, who speak of the Forces of Nature as the imponderable energy of Matter and as modes of motion, and yet hold electricity, for one, as being as *atomic as Matter* itself—(Helmholtz). Inconsistency and contradiction reign as much in official as in heterodox Science.

<sup>2</sup> *The Virgin of the World of Hermes Mercurius Trismegistus*, rendered into English by Dr. Anna Kingsford and Dr. Edward Maitland. Pp 83-4.

<sup>3</sup> "Hermes here includes as Gods the sensible Forces of Nature, the elements and phenomena of the Universe," remarks Dr. A. Kingsford in a foot-note explaining it very correctly. So does Eastern Philosophy.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, pp 64-5.

This is quite philosophical and in accordance with the spirit of Eastern Esotericism : for all the Forces, such as Light, Heat, Electricity, etc., are called the “ Gods ”—Esoterically.

This, indeed, must be so, since the Esoteric Teachings in Egypt and India were identical. And, therefore, the personification of *Fohat*, synthesizing all the manifesting Forces in Nature, is a legitimate result. Moreover, as will be shown later, the real and *Occult* Forces in Nature only now begin to be known, —and even in this case, by heterodox, not orthodox, Science,<sup>1</sup> though their existence, in one instance at any rate, is corroborated and certified by an immense number of educated people, and even by some official men of Science.

The statement, moreover, in STANZA 6—that *Fohat* sets in motion the primordial World-Germs, or the aggregation of Cosmic Atoms and Matter, “ some one way, some the other way,” in the opposite direction—looks orthodox and scientific enough. For there is, at all events, in support of this position, one fact fully recognized by Science, and it is this. The meteoric showers, periodical in November and August, belong to a system moving in an elliptical orbit around the Sun. The aphelion of this ring is 1,732 millions of miles beyond the orbit of Neptune, its plane is inclined to the Earth’s orbit at an angle of 64°3', and the direction of the meteoric swarm moving round this orbit *is contrary to that of the Earth’s revolution*.

This fact, recognized only in 1833, shows it to be the modern rediscovery of what was very anciently known. *Fohat* turns with his two hands in contrary directions the “ seed ” and the “ curds,” or Cosmic Matter, in clearer language, is turning particles in a highly attenuated condition, and *nebulæ*

Outside the boundaries of the Solar System, it is other Suns, and especially the mysterious Central Sun—the “ Abode of the Invisible Deity ” as some reverend gentlemen have called it—that determines the motion and the direction of bodies. That motion serves also to differentiate the homogeneous Matter, round and between the several bodies, into Elements and Sub-elements unknown to our Earth, and these are regarded by modern Science as distinct individual Elements, whereas they are merely temporary appearances, changing with every small cycle within the *Manvantara*, some Esoteric works calling them “ *Kalpik Masks*.”

*Fohat* is the key in Occultism which opens and unriddles the multiform symbols and allegories in the so-called mythology of every nation, demonstrating the wonderful Philosophy and the deep insight into the mysteries of Nature, contained in the Egyptian and Chaldean as well as in the *Âryan*

<sup>1</sup> See also Section 9, “ The Coming Force.”

religions. Fohat, shown in his true character, proves how deeply versed were all those prehistoric nations in every Science of Nature, now called the physical and chemical branches of Natural Philosophy. In India, Fohat is the scientific aspect of both Vishnu and Indra, the latter older and more important in the *Rig Veda* than his sectarian successor; while in Egypt, Fohat was known as Toom issued of Noot,<sup>1</sup> or Osiris in his character of a primordial God, creator of heaven and of beings.<sup>2</sup> For Toom is spoken of as the Protean God who generates other Gods and gives himself the form he likes; the "Master of Life, giving their vigour to the Gods"<sup>3</sup> He is the overseer of the Gods, and he "who creates spirits and gives them shape and life"; he is "the North Wind and the Spirit of the West", and finally the "Setting Sun of Life," or the vital electric force that leaves the body at death; wherefore the *Defunct* begs that Toom should give him the breath from his right nostril (positive electricity) that he might live in his second form. Both the hieroglyph, and the text of chapter xlii in the *Book of the Dead*, show the identity of Toom and Fohat. The former represents a man standing erect with the hieroglyph of the *breaths* in his hands. The latter says:

I open to the chief of An (Heliopolis) I am Toom I cross the water spilt by Thot-Hapi, the lord of the horizon, and am the divider of the earth [Fohat divides Space and, with his Sons, the Earth into seven zones]

I cross the heavens, I am the two Lions I am Ra, I am Aam, I eat my heir<sup>4</sup>  
I glide on the soil of the field of Aanroo,<sup>5</sup> given me by the master of limitless eternity I am a germ of eternity I am Toom, to whom eternity is accorded

The very words used by Fohat in the xth Book, and the very titles given him. In the Egyptian Papyri the whole Cosmogony of the SECRET DOCTRINE is found scattered about in isolated sentences, even in the *Book of the Dead*. Number seven is quite as much insisted upon and emphasized therein as in the *BOOK OF DZYAN*. "The Great Water [the Deep or Chaos] is said to

<sup>1</sup> "O Toom, Toom I issued from the great [female] which is in the bosom of the waters [the great Deep or Space], luminous through the two Lions," the dual Force, or power of the two solar eyes, or the electro-positive and the electro-negative forces. See *Book of the Dead*, iii

<sup>2</sup> See *Book of the Dead*, xvii

<sup>3</sup> Ch lxix

<sup>4</sup> An image expressing the succession of divine functions, the transmutation of one form into another, or the correlation of forces. Aam is the electro-positive force, devouring all others, as Saturn devoured his progeny

<sup>5</sup> Aanroo is in the domain of Osiris, a field divided into fourteen sections, "surrounded with an iron enclosure, within which grows the corn of life seven cubits high," the Kâma Loka of the Egyptians. Those only of the dead, who know the names of the janitors of the "seven halls," will be admitted into Amenti for ever, i.e., those who have passed through the Seven Races of each Round—otherwise they will rest in the lower fields, and it represents also the seven successive Devachans, or Lokas. In Amenti one becomes pure spirit for the eternity (xxx, 4), while in Aanroo the "soul of the spirit," or the Defunct, is devoured each time by Uræus—the Serpent, Son of the Earth (in another sense the primordial vital principles in the Sun), i.e., the Astral Body of the deceased or the "Elementary" fades out and disappears in the "Son of the Earth," limited time. The soul quits the fields of Aanroo and goes on earth under any shape it likes to assume. (See *Book of the Dead*, xcix)

be seven cubits deep"—"cubits" standing here of course for divisions, zones, and principles. Therein, "in the great Mother, all the Gods, and the Seven Great Ones are born." Both Fohat and Toom are addressed as the "Great Ones of the Seven Magic Forces," who, "conquer the Serpent Apap" or Matter.<sup>1</sup>

No student of Occultism, however, ought to be betrayed, by the usual phraseology used in the translations of Hermetic Works, into believing that the ancient Egyptians or Greeks spoke of, and referred, monk-like, at every moment in conversation, to a Supreme Being, God, the "One Father and Creator of all," etc., in the way found on every page of such translations. No such thing indeed, and those texts *are not the original Egyptian* texts. They are Greek compilations, the earliest of which does not go beyond the early period of Neo-Platonism. No Hermetic work written by Egyptians—as we may see by the *Book of the Dead*—would speak of the one universal God of the Monotheistic systems; the one *Absolute Cause* of all was as unnameable and unpronounceable in the mind of the ancient Philosopher of Egypt, as it is for ever *Unknowable* in the conception of Mr. Herbert Spencer. As for the Egyptian in general, as M. Maspero well remarks, whenever he

arrived at the notion of divine Unity, the God One was never "God" simply. M. Lepage-Renouf very justly observed that the word Noutir Nouti, "God" had never ceased to be a *generic name* to become a personal one.

Every God was the "one living and unique God" with them. Their

Monotheism was purely geographical. If the Egyptian of Memphis proclaimed the Unity of Phtah to the exclusion of Ammon, the Thebeian Egyptian proclaimed the unity of Ammon to the exclusion of Phtah [as we now see done in India in the case of the Shaivas and the Vaishnavas]. Ra, the "One God" at Heliopolis is not the same as Osiris, the "One God" at Abydos, and can be worshipped side by side with him, without being absorbed by him. The one God is but the God of the *nome* or the city, Noutir Nouti, and does not exclude the existence of the one God of the neighbouring town or nome. In short, whenever we are speaking of Egyptian Monotheism, we ought to speak of the Gods One of Egypt, and not of the One God.<sup>2</sup>

It is by this feature, pre-eminently Egyptian, that the authenticity of the various so-called *Hermetic Books*, ought to be tested, and it is totally absent from the Greek fragments known under this name. This proves that a Greek Neo-Platonic, or perhaps a Christian hand, had no small share in the editing of such works. Of course the fundamental Philosophy is there, and in many a place—intact. But the style has been altered and smoothed in a monotheistic direction, as much, if not more than that of the Hebrew Genesis in its Greek and Latin translations. They *may be Hermetic* works, but not works written by either of the two Hermes—or rather, by Thot Hermes, the directing

<sup>1</sup> See *Book of the Dead*, cviii, 4.

<sup>2</sup> Maspero in the *Guide au Musée de Boulaq*, p. 152 (1883).



Intelligence of the Universe<sup>1</sup> or by Thot his terrestrial incarnation called Trismegistus, of the Rosetta stone.

But all is doubt, negation, iconoclasm and brutal indifference, in our age of a hundred "isms" and no religion. Every idol is broken save the Golden Calf.

Unfortunately, no nation or nations can escape their Kârmic fate, any more than can units and individuals. History itself is dealt with by the so-called historians as unscrupulously as legendary lore. For this, Augustin Thierry has made the *amende honorable*, if one may believe his biographers. He deplored the erroneous principle that made all the *would-be* historiographers lose their way, and each presume to correct tradition, "that *vox populi* which nine times out of ten is *vox Dei*", and he finally admitted that *in legend alone rests real history*, for he adds :

Legend is living tradition, and three times out of four it is truer than what we call History.<sup>2</sup>

While Materialists deny everything in the Universe, save Matter, Archæologists are trying to dwarf Antiquity, and seek to destroy every claim of Ancient Wisdom by tampering with Chronology. Our present-day Orientalists and historical writers are to ancient History that which the white ants are to the buildings in India. More dangerous even than those Termites, the modern Archæologists—the "authorities" of the future in the matter of Universal History—are preparing for the history of past nations the fate of certain edifices in tropical countries. As said Michelet

History will tumble down and break into atoms in the lap of the twentieth century, devoured to its foundations by her annalists

Very soon, indeed, under their combined efforts, it will share the fate of those ruined cities in both Americas, which lie deeply buried under impassable virgin forests. Historical facts will remain concealed from view by the inextricable jungles of modern hypotheses, denials and scepticism. But very happily *actual* History repeats herself, for she proceeds, like everything else, in cycles ; and dead facts, and events deliberately drowned in the sea of modern scepticism, will ascend once more and re-appear on the surface.

In Volumes 3 and 4, the very fact that a work with pretensions to Philosophy, which is also an exposition of the most abstruse problems, has to be commenced by tracing the evolution of mankind from what are regarded as supernatural beings—*Spirits*—will arouse the most malevolent criticism. Believers in, and the defenders of, the SECRET DOCTRINE, however, will have to

<sup>1</sup> See *Book of the Dead*, xciv

<sup>2</sup> *Revue des Deux Mondes*, 1865, pp. 157-8

bear the accusation of madness *and worse*, as philosophically as for long years already the writer has done. Whenever a Theosophist is taxed with insanity, he ought to reply by quoting from Montesquieu's *Lettres Persanes* :

By opening so freely their lunatic asylums to their supposed madmen, men only seek to assure each other that they are not themselves mad



## ADDITIONAL NOTES

*Siphra Dzenioutha*, p 52

Or Siphra Dzenioutha, or Sprā Dtzniövthā, The Book of Concealed Mystery, or of “ the equilibrium of balance ” In the *Kabbala Denudata*, or *The Kabbalah Unveiled*, by S L MacGregor Mathers, is contained the books of the Zohar : (1) The Book of Concealed Mystery, (2) The Greater Holy Assembly, (3) The Lesser Holy Assembly , translated into English from the Latin version of Knorr von Rosenroth, and collated with the original Chaldee and Hebrew text See THE SECRET DOCTRINE, Vol. 1, p. 262 and Vol 2, p 106

*Sapta Samudra*, p 62

These seven oceans stand for the seven Protyles spoken of elsewhere in THE SECRET DOCTRINE They are the homogeneous Mahat, Ahāmkāra, and five Tanmātras, or rudiments.

*Pradhāna is a Cause inferior to Brahmā*, p 86, footnote

See p 170 Where it is said, “ Brahmā was then created (?) being identified with Mahat ” This latter is in accordance with Hindu teaching

*Vyākritis*, p. 150, footnote

This word should be Vyāhritis, meaning “ utterance ” The three words, Bhūh, Bhuvah, and Svah, (or Suvah) are repeated by Brāhmans when performing the daily sandhyā, worship and prayers

*The Value of the Term Raven*, p 161

The value of  $\pi$  being taken as  $\frac{355}{113}$  the circumference is taken as 355 and the diameter as 113 Now if the circle be divided into six parts and each of these subdivided by six, the circle will contain  $355 \times 6$  or 2130 parts that is 213 /0 Again, if the circle be divided by six diameters, or into twelve parts as above, and these divided by six, we shall have  $355 \times 12$  or 4260 parts or 426/0 or  $213 \times 2$

“ *Is Light a Body or not ?* ” p 206

Scientists would now reply that light is both

*Sir Isaac Newton*, p 218, etc

Full credit is now given to Sir Isaac Newton for his “ inspired guesses ”

Section 4, p. 224

Most of the scientific theories examined in this Section are now out of date

Section 5, p 231

The modern ideas put forward in *The New Conceptions of Matter*, by C.G Darwin, answer this Section.

"The . . . Light, whose one pole is pure *Spirit*, . . . and the other pole . . . Matter in which it condenses, 'crystallizing' into a more and more gross type as it descends into manifestation" p. 204 See also "the substantiality of the so-called Forces." p. 236

Such expressions as the above are very significant in view of the modern ideas of the interchangeability of the quanta of light or energy and units of matter.

Compare *The New Conceptions of Matter* by C G Darwin

"*The Qualities of Sound*," p. 258

The order should be (1) Shadja, (2) Rishaba, (3) Gandhâra, (4) Madhyama, (5) Panchama, (6) Dhaivata, (7) Nishâda The Indian gamut is सा-Sâ, रे-Re, ग-Ga, म-Ma, प-Pa, ध-Dha, नि-Ni—being, with the exception of Sâ and Re, the initial letters of the above words In Sanskrit Sâ, etc., is one letter, thus, सा.

*The Periodic Law*, p. 274

The most commonly used diagram does not now show either a pendulum or a lemniscate There is however one form, known as the Johnson-Stoney logarithmic spiral This form is adopted by Mr C Jinarâjadâsa in his new (1938) edition of *First Principles of Theosophy*

Atoms, see Index

Madame Blavatsky's definition of atoms should be kept clear throughout She says for instance, p. 291 "Atoms and Souls were synonymous . . ." Compare Dr Arundale's new book *Symbolic Yoga*

*Chemistry will incarnate as the "New Alchemy or as Meta-Chemistry"* p. 348

See Sir E Rutherford's *The Newer Alchemy*

NOTE . The above notes have been supplied by students both in the East and in the West —Ed.

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## ERRATA

Page	21	Footnote	1	For an MS. <i>read</i> a MS.
„	31	line	11	„ system <i>read</i> systems.
„	44	„	13	„ from air heat <i>read</i> from air, heat.
„	50	Footnote	2	„ Darmsteter <i>read</i> Darmesteter —and all other references
„	80	line	2	„ took <i>read</i> look
„	91	„	36	„ thirteenth <i>read</i> thirtieth This error of translation was inadvertently retained from earlier editions
„	94	„	22	„ though <i>read</i> through
„	178	„	5	Insert after Nature—In the <i>Vedas</i> it is a synonym of Gods
„	206	„	26	For than <i>read</i> then
„	220	Footnote	1	„ Correllation <i>read</i> Correlation
„	225	„	1	„ Schelling <i>read</i> Schelling.
„	304	line	33	„ f <i>read</i> if
„	316	„	18	„ what <i>read</i> What
„	382	„	28	„ accunt <i>read</i> account
„	408	„	15	„ “ Physics and Chemistry in the Mahâtmâ Letters ” <i>read</i> Astronomy and Physics, etc.”









